



**Professional Engineers  
Ontario  
York Chapter**

# Annual Chapter Newsletter

Fall 2018

## 2017-2018 Executives



Back: Gallant Ng , P.Eng , Abhishek Shah, P.Eng., Kim Keoponnreay, EIT, Oliver Xiao, EIT, Zohaib Tanveer, P.Eng., Jennifer Lu, EIT, Elmer Ting, P.Eng.

Front: Hannah Ehtemam, P.Eng., Annabelle Lee, P.Eng., Lui Tai, P.Eng., Daniel Cho, EIT, Fiona Leong, EIT

Missing: Ed Fung P.Eng., Gordon Ip P.Eng., FEC, Ayoub Amouch, EIT

## Vice Chair's Message

York Chapter is the second largest chapter in the province and we are also one of the busiest chapter holding various events for you and the community. Our success would not be possible without our hardworking team of volunteers. I would like to congratulate them on a job well done.

We are always looking for volunteers and welcome any ideas and contribution to the team. Whether you are a new grad or a seasoned professional, we welcome you to join us. You can meet the team at the monthly meeting or at one of the upcoming events. Check out our website at [www.peoyork.com](http://www.peoyork.com) for event schedule.

Annabelle Lee, P.Eng.

Vice Chair

[annabelle.lee@peoyork.com](mailto:annabelle.lee@peoyork.com)

## Treasurer's Message

It was an honour to be elected and serve as the Treasurer for the PEO York Chapter Executive Board for the 2018 year. We are not only the leading chapter in Ontario that represents over 8,500 P.Eng and EIT's, but also the #1 Chapter to have received the highest funding allocation from PEO HQ. 2018 was a successful year as we have continued our trend of maintaining active presence in the engineering community and have successfully spent over 50% of HQ allocation towards events & activities that support the engineering profession.

Abhishek Shah, P.Eng.

Treasurer

[abhishek.shah@peoyork.com](mailto:abhishek.shah@peoyork.com)

## Government Liaison News

As a result of the Ontario General Election in 2018, York Chapter underwent major political changes within our chapter boundaries. York Chapter's ridings increased from seven in 2017 to nine in 2018. This year the Government Liaison Program (GLP) Committee spent significant efforts to cultivate new relationships with the newly elected Members of the Provincial Parliament (MPPs). We also continued to maintain our established relationships with re-elected officials. We understand that this provides a great opportunity for our members' voice to be heard in government.

GLP activities in the past year were of great significance as MPPs, focused on campaigning and then on engaging in their new positions at Queen's Park, had very limited time. With our continued efforts, our goal is to increase engagement in the following year. This year we had the pleasure of having Dr. Helena Jacek, former minister of Community and Social Services, Chair of Cabinet and MPP of Oak Ridges-Markham attend the winter Certificate Presentation Ceremony (CPC) and Project of the Year Award. Dr. Jacek addressed our newest licensees and members, discussing the importance of engineering in helping shape the future of Ontarians.

We also had great success at the PEO Annual Queen's Park MPP Reception, networking with our newly elected officials and establishing new relationships. This event was highly successful with over 30 MPPs attending on behalf of the government of Ontario and several sending their best. As one of the PEO chapters with the most MPPs, we are excited about the opportunity to continue building these relationships in the year to come in order to raise the profile of engineers within the province.

Hannah Ehtemam, P.Eng.

Government Liaison Program Director

[hannah.ehtemam@peoyork.com](mailto:hannah.ehtemam@peoyork.com)



GLP Director Hannah Ehtemam, P.Eng with Dr. Helena Jacek

## Education News

PEO York Chapter is pleased to recognize one student for his/her outstanding scholastic performance, community service, volunteerism and interest in the engineering profession this year. In total we have received 28 scholarship applications from students who completed Grade 12 studies with honors and are attending the first-year engineering studies at an accredited engineering school in Canada.

The PEO York Chapter 2018 National Engineering Month Design Challenge was to design and build string instrument that can play an audible major scale and a song. 16 teams of Grade 7 and 8 students from York Region schools took part in the challenge. Students worked in groups of four to design and fabricate the instrument using a selection of materials including popsicle sticks, wooden boxes, cardboard, guitar strings ukulele strings, and string made of steel, copper, and polymer. Student were to exercise judgement on material selection by using limited token to purchase crafting materials. The relationship of frequency with density, diameter and length was explained at the beginning of the challenge. Students can change the structure of the instrument and test their design before evaluation.

Judging was based on the students' problem-solving skills, design, construction and the instrument's performance. Final products were evaluated by professional musicians and presentation of design and construction were evaluated by engineers. The top team was sent to the regional level of the design challenge.



Students building a string instrument at NEM Design Challenge

Our Mathletics competition is about having fun by applying math skills to solve engineering problems. The event is divided into two sessions. The junior level is for grade 7 and 8 and the senior level for Grade 9-10. This year we have 49 participants in the junior level and 47 students at the senior level. The top three students in each competition received cool engineering themed prizes. Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) continues to be our title sponsor in 2018, and two lucky winners took home an AMD laptop.

Daniel Cho, EIT

Education Director

[daniel.cho@peoyork.com](mailto:daniel.cho@peoyork.com)

## Certificate News

The fall 2018 Certificate Presentation Ceremony was held on September 29th at Ascott Parc Event Centre in the City of Vaughan and it celebrated a milestone achievement for 70 newly licensed engineers.

The next Certificate Presentation Ceremony, along with our chapter's Annual General Meeting (AGM), is scheduled for Saturday February 23rd, 2019. At the AGM, a summary of the chapter's fiscal year will be reviewed and the elections for the 2019-2020 Chapter Board members will take place. I encourage you to come out to meet the candidates and take part in deciding who will represent you in York Chapter!

I would like to give my warmest congratulations to our new license recipients and say a big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers in York Chapter who make our activities possible. I look forward to meeting you at our events and new volunteers are always welcome!

Fiona Leong, EIT

Certificate Director

[fiona.leong@peoyork.com](mailto:fiona.leong@peoyork.com)

## Chair's Message



PEO York Chapter continues our tradition of being a trailblazer in serving PEO members, and this means organizing a variety of events and reaching out to members beyond our physical borders. This year, in addition to the traditional technical and soft skill seminars, we also hosted team sport events such as iFly and Big Bike.

These team-building events gave members that have varied interests a chance to participate in chapter activities. Another initiative we have started this year is to collaborate with neighbouring chapters and other sister organizations. We co-hosted the iFly event with Lake Ontario Chapter, shared our speakers with Toronto-Humber Chapter for the Construction Lien Act presentation, and eblasted events for Simcoe-Muskoka Chapter to increase their attendance. We are also working on collaboration with OACETT and IES to cross-pollinate our membership services.

Of course, we continue to host the events that we do best, which included mentorship for EITs, Design Challenges and Mathletics for students, Capstone project with York University, and Women-in-Engineering program to support the 30-by-30 initiative.

We have a hard-working Board of Directors and tireless volunteers at this chapter. I want to take this opportunity to thank each one of them for their selfless contribution and dedication to the success of our chapter and for the Engineering profession.

With the change in provincial government, we have to work extra hard to get the new MPPs to speak for the Engineering profession. We need members like you to get involved. Please come out to our next executive meeting to meet our board members, and get involved. For the new year, we will work hard to continue to bring quality events to our members, and will increase our collaboration efforts to broaden our outreach. We will also assist the PEO head office with their regulating functions and PEAK education. I look forward to meeting you at our next event.

Lui Tai, P.Eng.

Chair, PEO York Chapter

[lui.tai@peoyork.com](mailto:lui.tai@peoyork.com)



## 2019 Annual General Meeting and Notice of Proposed Bylaw Changes

The Chapter's Annual General Meeting will be held on Feb 23, 2019.

The Chapter bylaws will be modernized and updated. The new proposed bylaw will be discussed and voted upon at the AGM.

For more details on the AGM, please visit: [www.peoyork.com/agm](http://www.peoyork.com/agm)

## 2019-2020 Chapter Executive Elections

The Chapter's election for the 2019-2020 executive board will be held on Feb 23, 2019 at the AGM.

### Who is eligible to run for election?

- Be a member of good standing with PEO and have no criminal record;
- Recommendations via email by two professional engineers that you are a member of good standing.
- A short description why you want to run for election and which position you intend to run for.

### On election day at the AGM

Each candidate will provide a short speech on why they are running and if elected how they will serve the Chapter.

### Deadline

Please note that the deadline is two weeks before the AGM. To be eligible to run for the election, nomination and interest needs to be submitted to [nominations@peoyork.com](mailto:nominations@peoyork.com) by **Feb 9, 2019**.

## Important Dates!

**Jan 13, 2019** - Application deadline for Engineering Project of the Year Award

**Feb 9, 2019** - Last day to stand as a candidate for executive election

**Feb 23, 2019** - Annual General Meeting

## Program News

This year the Program Committee organized 10 events. These events included many technical and interpersonal development presentations, including our very first collaboration with Lake Ontario PEO Chapter to host "Networking while Defying Gravity at iFly", which opened an opportunity for executive and Chapter members to network and build relationships.

We have hosted a diverse range of presentations this year to inform engineering professionals and young engineers about the new Construction Lien Amendment Act, which took in effect this summer, the PEO's PEAK Program, and Structural Condition Assessment guidelines. On the other spectrum, our committee have organized several interpersonal skills development presentations, with a goal to inspire working professionals and young engineers the importance of not just networking, but to build and maintain relationships with professionals in and outside one's network circle.

The committee hopes to collaborate with more organizations in the upcoming year to host more interesting and engaging discussion and presentations, in hope to develop an environment for professionals to cross-collaborate with working professionals from other disciplines.

## Women-In-Engineering (WIE) News

WIE hosted two events this year: a workshop on self-awareness and a Smart Cities presentation along with wine and cheese networking event. Both events were very well-attended, presented by excellent speakers and contained interactive engagement activities.

The Smart Cities event was especially noteworthy. Many parties contributed to this success: the two excellent speakers who have extensive experience on the topic from management consultant KPMG, its staff, our members both P.Engs and EITs who contributed their various perspectives to the development of the content of the presentation, Chapter executives, WIE Deputy Director Aarik Subramanyam and our passionate and talented volunteers.

WIE was also very pleased to have welcome leaders from various organizations with whom we hope to collaborate in the future. Such organizations include our sister organization OSPE, Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Toronto, Engineering Student Societies' Council of Ontario (ESSCO) and McMaster Engineering Society.

By engaging our members and working towards inter-organizational collaboration through platforms such as those mentioned above, WIE sees our work as community-building activities. We look forward to hosting such community events, which bring people together to discuss and find best solutions in areas of common interest, it being technical, or cultural such as diversity, inclusion and equity in our profession.

Last but not least, my sincere appreciation to our members who take their time and energy to participate and support our events. I wish you all happy holidays and hope to see you in the New Year in our events!

Kim Keoponnreay, E.I.T.  
WIE Director  
[kim.keoponnreay@peoyork.com](mailto:kim.keoponnreay@peoyork.com)



## Awards and Recognition News

The Awards Committee has launched the annual PEO York Chapter Engineering Project of the Year Award competition for 2018 and we're looking for your project submissions! The award aims to promote the practice of the engineering profession by recognizing outstanding projects of a technical nature within York Region and the surrounding GTA.

On behalf of the Awards Committee, I would like to congratulate the 2017 winners and thank all the applicants for their engineering successes and contributions towards their local communities. The 2017 winners were:

- Mapsted Corp.
- York Region (The Regional Municipality of York)
- CIMCO Refrigeration Inc.
- Bildtec Building Systems Inc.
- York Region Rapid Transit
- Cole Engineering

Like last year, this year's awards will have three submission categories, this is to ensure projects are evaluated relative to resources of a similar organizational size. Projects from all engineering disciplines are welcome! The deadline for abstract submission for the 2018 Engineering Project of the Year Award is **January 11, 2019**, so please hurry and go to [www.peoyork.com/potya](http://www.peoyork.com/potya) to download the application to apply.

Finally, to give our 2018 award competition a kick start, we would like to announce that the first five York Chapter members to send in an application will receive a \$100 gift card to a restaurant/store of their choice! Visit our website for full details.

We look forward to celebrating your successes!

The Awards Committee is also accepting nominations for Distinguished Volunteers who has contributed exceptionally in Chapter's success. The committee has submitted to PEO Headquarters our York Chapter 2018 Volunteer List to recognize our York Chapter Volunteers on their active volunteering contribution in York Chapter. I hereby encourage more volunteers to participate in York Chapter and serve our fellow York Chapter members.

Zohaib Tanveer, P.Eng.  
Awards & Recognition Director  
[zohaib.tanveer@peoyork.com](mailto:zohaib.tanveer@peoyork.com)

## Mentorship and EIT News

The Mentorship & EIT Committee had another busy year helping EITs with their licensure journey and engineers with their career development.

In January, we held a Proactive Approach to Job Hunting seminar where attendees learned about new and different strategies to network and market themselves in the engineering job market.

In June, we welcomed 30 pairs of participants in our Licensure Assistance Program (LAP), where P.Eng.'s and EITs were matched and we kicked off the current round with an orientation event. The LAP provides the opportunity for EITs to ask questions and get guidance from engineers on all stages of the licensure process. Our engineers are the heart of the LAP and we thank all the P.Eng.'s who give their time and share their experience to help our future engineers in these 1:1 relationships. I'm looking forward to the results and progress of these EITs when we wrap up this LAP round in early 2019.



In October, we held our first Demystifying the ERC Interview session with our very own York Chapter past chairs Gordon Ip and Matthew Xie who are also long time volunteers with PEO's Experience Requirements Committee (ERC). Together, they dispensed valuable insight and advice on how to prepare and succeed at an ERC interview, while dispelling

mysteries and myths on this portion of the licensure process. Along with a mock ERC interview, the session provided a valuable learning experience for EITs.

In December, we held another successful Accelerated Mentoring event, an insightful and fast paced mentorship event that benefited EITs and engineers in their early and mid careers. Featuring accomplished senior level technical engineers and engineering managers, the event started with a panel session which allowed our mentors to provide their advice and insight for a successful engineering career. This was followed by speed mentorship rounds, where our mentors moved from table to table answering career questions and dispensing advice.



To help plant the seeds for new connections and mentorship opportunities, we will start 2019 off with another EITs vs Engineers event, which will allow our members to meet others in our Chapter while having fun in an active and competitive team sport.

Elmer Ting, P.Eng.  
Mentorship & EIT Director  
[elmer.ting@peoyork.com](mailto:elmer.ting@peoyork.com)