



# Chapter News

Summer 2007

YORK CHAPTER

www.peoyork.com

VOLUME 2007-2

## Chapter Board 2007/08

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York Chapter Board



## Chair's Message



I am humble to be elected as the new chapter chair. I would like to express my gratitude to our past chair Edward Poon for building up such a solid team for me to work with. His personal integrity and dedication to the engineering profession continue to inspire me in the years to come.

I grew up in China, where putting enough food on the table is a constant challenge for many people. Being an engineer is a logical choice for me to be useful. In Canada, we are blessed with abundant food and other natural resources. However, our global competitors are making significant progress in gaining the market share in North America. Our manufacturing industry is suffering. We are forced to face the challenge from the low cost countries. Structuring changes occur everyday at an accelerating pace.

What can professional engineers do to ensure our community is prospering? What can we do personally to survive and grow in this turbulent period? I believe that the P.Eng. licence is only a right for us to practise. It is not an entitlement of any respect. It is up to us to work hard and think smart to earn respect from the society. We cannot demand respect. We can only earn it. We have a group of dedicated engineers volunteering their time for York Chapter. As the new leader of this team, my priorities are:

- Self enhancement of ourselves in acquiring business senses, career management skills, and developing risk taking attitude to explore territories outside of our comfort zone.
- Reinforce our education outreach programs to include post-secondary engineering schools in the forms of knowledge sharing, mentorship program and Engineer-in-the-Classroom program.
- Systematic succession planning in our chapter is critical for our chapter's sustained growth. Recruiting and developing various executives

Advertisements in the York Chapter Newsletter are welcome. Please contact Thomas Chong at thomas.chong@peoyork.com for further information.

for different positions would help to bring new ideas to our day-to-day operation.

Honorable Bob Rae stated in PEO's AGM on April 28, "Nothing good will happen without effort and participation". It is my honour and privilege to serve York Chapter. Please participate and join me to serve our profession together.

*Matthew Xie P.Eng. Chapter Chair*



(R-L) Mr. & Mrs. Peter Swiderski, and son (middle) at AGM



(R-L) Mr. & Mrs. Vito Lotano at AGM



(R-L) Mehrfam Pour-Manouchehri & partner at AGM



(R-L) Mr. & Mrs. Behrouz Samanian-Pour at AGM





# Congratulations and Welcome!

The Annual General Meeting was held on February 17, 2007 at Richmond Hill Country Club. Chair Edward Poon, P.Eng., thanked the executives for their hard work in providing well-organized events and promoting the value of engineering. New executives for 2007-2008 were elected. Over 130 members, family and guests attended the meeting and dinner. Guests included Sifu Paul Ng, Bob Goodings, P.Eng., Kim Allen, P. Eng., CEO and Registrar PEO, Bryon Wilfret MP, Oak Ridges, Howard Hampton, Ontario Leader of NDP Party and PEO Regional Councillors Jeff Mark P.Eng., and Thomas Chong P.Eng. The evening included a spouse program, lucky draw and concluded with energetic dancing to entertaining music.

A very important part of the evening was the winter Certificate Presentation Ceremony, where a total of 32 new P.Eng. members received their certificates. Please join us in welcoming the following new members to our profession and to York Chapter.



Lolita Chakravarti at AGM

## Class of Licensees, February 17/07



**Certificate Presentation Recipients:** Adrian Louis Kuo-Tian Wong, Alykhan Manji, Ami Shah, Andrew Zbigniew Galuszka, Behrouz Samanian-Pour, Bela Kurucz, Bryan M.J. Avison, Cristina Cimpan, Diane Ho, Ebrahim Bagheri, Eddy Lam, Edgardo Tovilla, Fewdell Jones, Hon Son Li, John Anthony Cusato, Joseph Kenneth Roy Monteiro, Li Jing Xu, Manouchehr Mehrara, Margaret Ka Yee Yeung, Mehrfam Pour-Manouchehri, Mohammad Ali Totah, Mohammad Zobair Farah, Mukund-kumar Zaverbhai Patel, Nilesh Himatlal Zinzuwadia, Octavian Constantin Costin, Pavel Youshin, Pavle Pekovic, Peter Cushman, Peyvand Melati Rad, Piotr Swiderski, Rajiv Rattan, Riza B. Gurkan, Saiedeh Madani, Somaasundram T V S L Subramaniam, Thayaparan Thangavelautham, Umara Qureshi, Valentin Kouprine, Vito Reinaldo Masi Lotano, Zhong Cheng.



(L-R) Thomas Chong, John Cheng\*, Nilesh Zizuwadia\*, Diane Ho\*, Peter Cushman\*, Jeff Mark, Ed Poon, Matthew Xie at AGM. \*Class Reps Feb. 17, 2007



(R-L) Ed Poon, Sifu Pual Ng, and Thomas Chong at AGM

## Councillors' Corner

Congratulations to Peter DeVita of York Chapter for winning the election as Councillor-at-Large, Santosh Gupta of Scarborough Chapter as Lieutenant Governor Appointee to PEO Council, Ed Poon as an OSPE Director 2007, and Daniela Ilescu of Willowdale-Thornhill Chapter winning the PEO Member of the Order Award 2007.

- On May 17, PEO **won** its Building Code legal challenge at Ontario Superior Court of Justice. The ruling affirms PEO's exclusive jurisdiction in areas of building code compliance and activities relating to general review of construction.
- PEO AGM was held on April 28, followed by trainings on PRISM, new executive, and Government Liaison Program.
- Regional Councillors Committee (RCC) meeting was held after the AGM. Councillor John Vieth was elected as the Chair of RCC. RCC also approved:
  - Increasing National Engineering Week funding to \$600
  - An allowance up to \$250 for chapter committee meetings
- Chapter business plans for 2008 are due on June 23. The business plans from all chapters are combined to form the budget that RCC submits to PEO Council to allocate funding in the overall PEO budget.
- Internationally Educated Engineers Qualification Bridging program is a joint venture between PEO and Ryerson University for bridging the gap in academic requirements.
- Engineering Intern Training (EIT) Financial Credit Program waives application fee and first year fee for qualified EITs.
- Future of Engineering Education & Licensure Conference is held on June 21 at Renaissance Toronto Hotel, Toronto.

Thomas Chong P.Eng. Senior East Central Region Councillor

## Program Events

Since our AGM, we worked with Markham Small Business Enterprise Centre for a number of successful seminars:

- On March 17, 2007, Tax Tips for the Self-Employed provided our members with useful tax tips and other financial considerations.
- On April 18, 2007, The Tax Benefits of Scientific Research and Experimental Development ("SR&ED") Program seminar pointed out the practical details of the infamous government tax incentive program that many engineers encounter from time to time.
- On April 28, 2007, the How to Maximize Your Marketing Dollars seminar equipped our members with effective marketing techniques.
- For future events, the Viva Transit Operation Centre Technical Tour will take place on May 25, 2007. In June, we will be heading to the Toyota Plant in Cambridge.

I am looking for more ideas for seminar as well as other activities that engineers will enjoy and benefit. Please contact me (dwoo@peoyork.com) to make it happen.

Dennis Woo, PhD., P.Eng. Program Director



Markham Small Business Seminar at Markham City Centre



(R-L) Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Woo at AGM



# Dinner & Licence Presentation

Saturday, June 16, 2007

Delta Hotel Markham

50 East Valhalla Drive, Markham (Hwy 7 & Hwy 404). Tel. 905-477-2010



A special event for members, families & friends  
**Spring Licence Presentation and Dinner\*\***

Reception: 5:30 p.m. Welcome: 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Speeches: 7:30 p.m. Licence Presentation: 8:45 p.m.

\$40 per person (early bird) by June 1, 2007. \$45 per person after June 1, 2007

Cheque/money order must be received by Monday, June 8, 2007 at:

York Chapter, PEO, P.O. Box 186, 7305 Woodbine Ave., Markham, ON L3R 3V7

**\*\*Registration accepted by email only. Please register and order your tickets and food choices (see below) with**

**Gordon Ip at [gordon.ip@peoyork.com](mailto:gordon.ip@peoyork.com). Cheque payments by mail to the above York Chapter address.**

## York Chapter Licence Presentation & Dinner - Saturday, June 16, 2007 - Ticket(s) Order

I would like to order: \_\_\_\_\_ ticket(s), \$40 each (by June 1) or \$45 each (after June 1)

Food choice: Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ / Beef \_\_\_\_\_ / Fish \_\_\_\_\_ / Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a cheque/money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_. Contact me to confirm my order.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

## Government Liaison Program

The Government Liaison Program (GLP) is a new activity for PEO at the Chapter level and activities are underway to organize an active committee within the Chapter.

Although the committee is still getting organized, members have contacted Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) in a variety of ways over the past six months.

- October 13 2006, - met Mario Racco, MPP for Thornhill at the Markham Small Business Conference
- October 19, 2006 - members of York Chapter Executive and PEO attended an evening with the Honourable Michael Colle, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.
- October 21, 2006 Frank Klees, MPP for Oak Ridges attended the Certificate Ceremony
- February 14, 2007 – Howard Hampton, leader of the Ontario NDP was keynote speaker at York Chapter AGM
- March 6, 2007 – met with Minister Michael Chan at Markham Small Business Centre open house
- March 8, 2007 – met with Minister Michael Colle and several other MPPs at a reception for the announcement of Bill 124 Fair Access to rRegulated Professions.
- April 16, 2007 – members of the GLP Committee attended the Ontario Engineering reception with members of

GLP Committee event photos: (Left) with John Tory, MPP, (Middle) with Michael Chan, MPP, (Right) with Julia Munro, MPP

## OSPE Update

York Chapter participated in the inaugural Chapter Liaison Committee (CLC) orientation meeting held on February 7, 2007 at OSPE head office. The purpose of the CLC is to establish links between OSPE and PEO Chapters to promote the engineering profession. Some of the key roles and responsibilities of the CLC are to encourage interactions between Chapters and OSPE and to identify ways and methods of promoting the advocacy functions of OSPE at Chapter events and functions for mutual benefits.

OSPE has recently re-launched three radio advertisements promoting the impact of engineers' work in everyday life. OSPE's Political Action Network (PAN) celebrated its first anniversary. With 124 volunteers signed up, PAN has become a strong voice and an effective government advocacy initiative.

OSPE held its Annual General Meeting on May 10, 2007. At the AGM, four new Directors formally took office for a period of 3 years. For more details, please check [www.ospe.on.ca](http://www.ospe.on.ca)

*Edward Poon, P.Eng., Past Chair*

Queen's Park.

York Chapter's GLPC is looking for additional volunteers to assist in the task of making contact with all existing MPPs in York Region, as well as with the offices of the major parties. To volunteer or find out more about this new activity, please contact Gerry Meade, P.Eng., at [gerry.meade@peoyork.com](mailto:gerry.meade@peoyork.com)







## Professional Engineers Ontario

This newsletter is published for the benefit of over 5,000 members of the York Chapter, Professional Engineers Ontario. Its main goal is to communicate the Chapter's activities and views and to be a voice of our members. Hence, your comments, letters to the editor and guest articles are welcome.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for length, clarity and style. The Newsletter content does not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Council of Professional Engineers Ontario, nor does the association assume responsibility for the opinion expressed.

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### York Chapter Professional Engineers Ontario

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## Coming Events/Calendar

- **May 25 - Viva Transit Operation Centre Tour, 50 High Tech Road, Richmond Hill**
- **May 28 - Engineering Intern Training (EIT) Night, at 14th Ave. Restaurant & Bar, 590 Alden Road, Markham**
- **June 18 - Toyota Plant Tour, Cambridge Ontario**

Contact Dennis Woo by email: [dwoo@peoyork.com](mailto:dwoo@peoyork.com) for details. Or visit [www.peoyork.com](http://www.peoyork.com) for update.

### Engineer-in-the-Classroom

One year after the implementation of the Engineer in the Classroom we have had numerous requests from schools asking for engineers to assist in the schools, curriculum for Grade 1 to Grade 8. The feedback from teachers, students and volunteer engineers has been positive. In the beginning half of 2007, we have received over 30 requests. We hope that whether it is an hour over the span of the year, or more often, you can volunteer some time to spend with the children in the classroom and encourage them to be engineers. Together as engineers in the York Region we are proud of our profession and should share that excitement with others around us and what better way to do that than to encourage the students. Please contact your York Education Chair, Lolita Chakravarti, to find out more.

### Technology Fair 2007

PEO York Chapter showed presence at the YRDSB Technology Fair 2007 for Grade 7 to Grade 12, hosted at Sir William Mulock Secondary School, on May 2nd. Lolita Chakravarti and Gerry Meade were present at the fair to answer questions from parents, teachers and students on engineering. Ten schools in the York Region set up booths showcasing their projects. Two schools competing in the 2007 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League had functioning robots. They are looking for engineer volunteers to come out and mentor students and are flexible with timing. Please contact the York Chapter Education Chair if you are interested. Projects also presented were Claymation, SmartBoards, Patient lifting devices etc.

### Design Challenge 2007

Design Challenge 2007 by York Chapter was initially scheduled on March 1st at the Newmarket High School, unfortunately mother nature had other plans. Despite 12cm of snow, white out conditions and cancellations of all after school activities on school premises, we rescheduled the competition for Thursday April 24th, 4pm to 8pm for Grade 7 & 8 students at the same venue. Other project management challenges of trying to find new volunteers and new judges did not deter us and the event was a resounding success with over 50 student and 10 teams. The theme of the challenge was to design and build a scaled portable arctic crevasse bridge capable of carrying a weight of 0.6kg can over a distance of 0.4m with different types of uncooked pasta in addition to straws, skewers, brass head fasteners, elastic bands, toothpicks and paper clips. Judging criteria included: weight of the bridge, cost of materials, collapsed length of the bridge and the ability to hold 0.6kg weight, preliminary concepts, detailed design and project management. The judges present were Matthew Xie P.Eng., 2007 York Chapter Chair; Gerry Meade, P.Eng., 2007 GLP Director, and Craig Doran P.Eng, founder of Design Challenge in York Chapter, who were able to come out and support the competition despite the short notice and their busy

schedules.

We also had tremendous support from York Region School Board representative Pam Turnbull and Art Niezen. Planning and event supports provided by Jeff Mark, Greg McIntosh, Joe Ciccone and Susan Treki (all P.Eng). Engineer volunteers Jon Mills, Kelvin Lo, Derek Cheung, Mandy Yu and Michael Chee, along with high school student volunteers Conrad and Brandon were there support the event. Corporate Sponsors included Marshall Macklin Monaghan, McGregor- Allsop, Wirecomm, Consult Group, MacViro Consulting and Mark Engineering.

The winners included First place Red Maple P.S. (Edwin Lee, Annie Nguy, Brittany Lo, Jono Kim, Victor Tsang), second place St Patrick P.S. (Charlotte Hengeveld, Connor Casiato, Brandon D'Amato, Marshall Perone, Megan Gagnon), third place Sixteenth Avenue P.S. (Massa Sadeghi, Derek Seto, Ivan Bekcic, Sina Saremi).

We need more volunteers, whether it is during a weekday of a weekend or a specific time of the year, please contact us and we are sure that we can find something that is a match to help us grow the image of engineering in the York Region. Please contact your York Chapter Education Chair, Lolita Chakravarti, if you have any questions.

