



2008 Chapter Board (Current)

Chair	Raju Chander, P.Eng.
Vice Chair	Ranee Mahalingam, P.Eng.
Secretary	Jim Wang, P.Eng.
Treasurer	Ken Chiu, P.Eng.
Past Chair	Gordana Nikolic, P.Eng.
Executive	Tom Fernandes, P.Eng. (Assistant Treasurer)
Executive	Piyush Patel, P.Eng. (Assistant Secretary)
Executive	Narayanapillai Asogan, P.Eng. (Volunteer Coordinator)
Executive	Jason Ettore, EIT (Education Coordinator)
Webmaster	Jian (Jerry) Wang, P.Eng.

Highlights of 2008 Chapter Events

- The chapter conducted over 17 events.
- Our most popular, the Bridge Building Competition, attracted over 60 enthusiastic teams. Political personalities and senior executives graced the occasion in the presence of about 250 parents and teachers.
- Conducted two Mathletics events with the cooperation of two chapters. About 100 students participated.
- Arranged visits to Elevator Plant, Pickering Wind Turbine, R C Harris Water Treatment Plant and Shri. Swaminarayan Temple.
- Conducted two Licence Certificate Presentation Ceremonies to award about 60 licence certificates.
- Technical Talks on Afghanistan War, Nuclear and Wind Power, Financial Planning, PEO Licensing Process and Web Design were arranged.

MESSAGE BY THE CHAIR

Raju Chander, M.S., P.Eng.



We, the engineers, are at a crossroads now. With the economic downturn, many jobs are disappearing! Its effect can be seen in the major auto industries, auto part manufacturers, general manufacturing sector, IT sector, housing, etc. Engineers fail to understand why this is happening. The engineers who in the real world produce all the materials, equipment, infrastructure, houses, etc. that create wealth seem to have no role to play in the economic changes, except that of losing jobs. We need to put our heads together and examine whether this current situation is acceptable to us. Engineers, the creators of wealth, should have been the drivers for economic development! Instead, we seem to have become the tail end followers. We, as the major players, need to be the leaders and not the followers. We should determine whether our efforts serve the interest of people or not. Currently, we have just become minions for the corporations. The consciousness of engineers as primary citizens seems to have been engulfed by vested interests. We should be directly interested in the safety and well being of the general public. The most important question for us is: are we, the engineers, satisfied with this state of ours? I think this requires some serious thinking. Otherwise, we will not be in a position to manage our destiny! We need to choose whether we want blindly to follow the direction of our masters, or steer the community in the right direction.

This state of affairs can be seen in all facets of engineering, whether it is in the environment or in energy, wherein we work for goals not defined by us but by the corporations. Unfortunately, the non-scientific economic metric has been imposed as our metric. We are no longer students of science, who by definition are required to be objective. This objectivity needs to be demonstrated in all dimensions of life. Our metrics need to be derived from the fundamental scientific units.

(Continued – Page 3)

2008 EVENTS–Continued

- Hands on Web Design Workshop was conducted.
 - Conducted two career fairs for school and university students.
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Important Ongoing Activities

- An attempt is being made to provide engineering experience to chapter volunteers by performing engineering work required for the chapter under the supervision of licensed engineers.
 - A team in cooperation with other PEO chapters is being formed to evaluate the structural wonder of Shri. Swaminarayan Temple.
 - Athletics is being promoted as an event at the provincial level.
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Annual General Meeting 2009

Where – Malvern Library - Auditorium, 30 Sewells Rd., Toronto, ON M1B 3G5

When: January 31, 2009

Full details on the chapter website.

As per the chapter bylaw, section 8.0 (available on our chapter website), the chapter board consists of:

- four elected officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary;
- the Immediate Past Chair (not elected); and
- four elected executives.

All the officers and executives will be elected at the AGM. If you are interested in serving on the chapter board (for eligibility see the chapter bylaw), please contact Nomination Committee Chair Gordana Nikolic, P.Eng. Email: sgnikolic@hotmail.com.

Other members of the Nomination Committee are Jim Wang, P.Eng., and Bhadresh Modi, EIT.

2009 University Entrance Scholarship Program

Ranee Mahalingam, P.Eng.

Chair, Scholarship Subcommittee

PEO Scarborough Chapter is pleased to announce its first scholarship program, open to high school students living in the Scarborough area.

Two (2) scholarships, of \$500 each will be awarded to one female and one male student admitted to an engineering program, starting in September 2009.

The deadline for the application is June 15, 2009. The application form and selection criteria will be posted on our website in March 2009.

Any questions on this matter may be sent to:

scholarship@peoscarborough.ca

A FEW FACTS ABOUT PEO OPERATIONS

Dr. Santosh Gupta, M.E., P.Eng. – Councillor, Lt. Governor Appointee

1. PEO Council Meetings are open to public. Contact the Council Secretariat, if you wish to attend.
2. PEO Discipline and Registration hearings are open to the public. If you wish to observe, contact the Tribunal Office.
3. PEO has recently established a Centre for Engineering and Public Policy. I encourage you to participate. Contact Don Wallace, the newly appointed Executive Director for details.
4. PEO, through its Government Liaison Program, has been encouraging engineers, EITs and engineering students to interact with the politicians and discuss engineering issues. Please get involved.
5. PEO Council elections are fast approaching. Please participate.

For information on the PEO licensing process and details on your rights and obligations, please visit:

http://www.peo.on.ca/Applicant/Applicant_Guide_Obligation&Rights.pdf

(Chair's Message—Continued)

It is time we give a clear message that, as engineers, WE have a right to determine the correct and clear directions that are for the good of the people! I realize that this is a difficult path to tread, as no change is easily achieved; nevertheless this should be our motto.

As a first step, we, the engineers, need to be active and demonstrate that we can manage and regulate ourselves to protect and serve the public. The community should recognize our work and realize that we are the people who make the real wealth, not the virtual wealth created by the stock markets. Let us come out of our coterie to show our existence. The PEO chapters are an ideal place for this opportunity. The Scarborough Chapter is one such place where you can sharpen your pencils and try new approaches. The *Professional Engineers Act* enshrines democracy into our profession by making it a self-regulatory body. It is our right to use all the opportunities that are enshrined in our constitution.

On behalf of the PEO Scarborough Chapter board, I welcome all members to use this opportunity and play a constructive role in demonstrating this new meaning to our community.

Volunteering with Scarborough Chapter

Narayanapillai Asogan, P.Eng.
Volunteer Coordinator

The chapter organizes various events of engineering interest, such as technical talks, workshops with hands-on experience, visits to installations, contests for school children, financial seminars, etc., etc. *(Continued Pg 4)*

A message from your East Central Region Councillor

Denis Carlos, M.B.A., P.Eng.
deniscarlos.qc9z@ncf.ca



The good news is that PEO is well on its way to purchasing a building. Affordable? Sensible? Let me ask you a hypothetical question. If you were given the choice to buy a house by going into debt for 25 years, or to buy a more highly rated (and larger) property for just the cash you have on hand, which would you choose? This is an easy question for most individuals, even if we were to ignore the stark reality of the state of our economy. We are asked to trust that PEO Council decisions are based on rational thought, objective facts and good judgment.

PEO still faces several other challenges besides major financial decisions on the spending of its operating reserve. Most new engineering graduates do not join PEO because they do not find it relevant to their careers. PEO needs to respond to the changes brought on by new engineering fields, technologies and disciplines. We have a self-regulating profession, so it is up to us to improve our own governance. Who is better qualified to do this than working engineers? What can be done to make PEO Council reflect the views and demographics of their members?

It is a fact that only elected members of PEO Council may feel a commitment to their constituents. Therefore, it is up to us to reverse the status quo by standing up and taking an interest in the running of our own profession. To this end, I have worked hard to find you several dedicated engineers willing to run for elected office. I am proud to say that for the February 2009 election, out of a grand total of 25 candidates in all of Ontario, a full **10** of them are from East Central Region! They are to be commended! Please read each candidate's platform carefully, look at their websites and ask them pointed questions. Most importantly, **VOTE** for the candidate that will best represent your views.

We need a revolution in engineering affairs, but I'll settle for an evolution. What I can achieve is to open the doors of PEO's democracy a little wider to allow our future leaders to squeeze in. Please, take the opportunity provided by your PEO chapter to play a constructive role in your profession and community, while learning the management skills you need for your career.

Thank you for electing me as your new representative on PEO Council. It has been an eye-opening experience.

(Volunteering continued)

All these events require planning, organizing and implementation. The chapter requires volunteers to take charge of the various activities required to execute a successful event.

What you could do at Scarborough Chapter:

- organize an event of your choice;
- speak and present before a professional gathering by becoming a Master of Ceremonies;
- interact with the community and the community leaders;
- participate in major PEO activities.

What does a volunteer gain in this process?

Volunteering in chapter activities gives an exposure to project planning, teamwork, implementation, etc. with such added features as:

- a very friendly atmosphere of group members with a diverse knowledge;
- participation in not only one's own field of expertise, but in diverse technical fields;
- a way of networking—getting to know others in the engineering field; could be a way to get a job for newcomers to Canada and new graduates or a change of job and career development;
- opening a way to get involved in the administration of engineering.

Our chapter welcomes all its members to join the volunteering team.

Sixth Annual Popsicle Stick Bridge-Building Contest



Young bridge builders and an assortment of colourful Popsicle Stick bridges at BBC 2008

When – February 28, 2009

Where – Scarborough Civic Centre

Details in www.scarborough.peo.ca/events/20090228-bbc/

This is an annual event conducted to show the capabilities of school children of grades 3-6 and 7-8 in building a bridge out of Popsicle sticks and school glue, which we test to destruction.

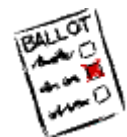
The 2008 event saw bridges of around 250 gm weight capable of carrying loads of 1800 N (185 kg)—Wow!



PEO Council Election, 2009-2010

Elections are to be held in February 2009. Please visit www.peo.on.ca for details.

Your VOTE counts. Please use your



Regional Councillor - East Central Region - Nominees

Thomas Chong, P.Eng.
Bogdan Damjanovic, P.Eng.
Marlene (Wachko) Graham, P.Eng.
Roger Jones, P.Eng.
Greg Merrill, P.Eng.
Karl L. Navarro, P.Eng.

Richmond Hill
Toronto
Toronto
Toronto
Midhurst
Willowdale

Editor – Narayanapillai Asogan, P.Eng.