



Chapter News

Chapter Board 2007/08

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York Chapter Board



Chair's Message



Thanks for the efforts of all York Chapter executives. We certainly had a very successful and rewarding 2007. I would like to reflect on the achievements during my leadership.

• Self enhancement of ourselves in acquiring business senses.

I invited Mr. Kam Ko, President of Kobotic Ltd., as the keynote speaker to share his success in running a business on November 3. His presentation was well received by the audience of 107 people. I will continue to seek more role models for our engineers, who are deciding to climb the corporate ladder or starting a sustainable independent business.

• Reinforcing our education outreach programs to include post-secondary engineering schools.

The Ryerson University under Edward Poon's leadership is in its second year. With the hard work of Ed Fung, Kam Leong and I successfully initiated the mentorship program at York University. Student and mentor representatives will present their rewarding experience in the next Annual General Meeting.

• Systematic succession planning in our chapter is critical for our chapter's sustained growth.

I am very pleased with the team work spirits shown in our Nov. 3 certificate presentation. Gordon Ip led his team effectively and hosted a very exciting event. Six of our chapter executives attended the Chapter Leader Conference on Nov. 9 to share experience with other PEO chapters. I believe that broad participation in such an event would benefit our chapter. Dr. Dennis Woo came up with a new way of organizing events with online registration with www.eventbrite.com. This innovative approach increases our quality of service to our members.

As one of the youngest PEO chap-

ter chairs, I am fortunate to earn my team's support. In return, I will continue to seek innovative ways of serving our chapter members effectively.

On behalf of my wife Caroline, my children Kimberly and Jonathan, wishing all of you and your family a happy holiday and prosperous 2008.

Matthew Xie P.Eng, MBA, Chapter Chair



(R-L) Mr. & Mrs. Sabino Bianco at Fall Certificate Presentation



(L-R) Ocean Chui & partner at Fall Presentation



(R-L) Mr. & Mrs. Barry Barnett and son at Fall Presentation



(L-R) Mr. & Mrs. Ramesan Gopalasundaram at Fall Presentation

Congratulations and Welcome!

The Fall 2007 Certificate Presentation Ceremony was held on November 3, 2007 at the Richmond Hill Golf Club. VIP guests attending the ceremony included Dr. Reza Moridi, MPP for Richmond Hill, Kam Ko, P.Eng., our guest speaker, Edward Fung, P.Eng., Shuming Li, P.Eng. and George Zhu from our York Chapter & York University Joint Mentorship program, Sandra Tam, Manager of Markham Small Business Centre, and Matthew Ng, PEO Chapter Manager. The speeches for the evening focused on the good things that the York Chapter Executives, Committees and Volunteers are doing to enhance the engineering profession in the community. Edward Fung, P.Eng., and Shuming Li, P.Eng., overviewed our York Chapter/York University Joint Mentorship Program. Kam Ko, P.Eng., our guest speaker, provided a lively keynote speech on his experiences as an engineering entrepreneur as he started his own engineering welding business in Richmond Hill.

Fall Licence Presentation 2007



Certificate Presentation Recipients: Leily Abidi, Barry Barnett, Sabino Bianco, Carolyn Chan, Samuel Chen, Ocean Chui, John Cucco, Fadi El-Sayegh, Ramesan Gopalsundaram, Waleed Irshad, Serge Larocque, George Luo, Benit Mak, Qing Hua Meng, Lily Radulovic, Dereje Tafesse, Kian Huat Tan, Bill Wong, Amirmasoud Yazdankia, Paul Zheng

As a continuing effort by the chapter to enhance the soft skills of engineers, several certificate recipients were encouraged to give impromptu speeches in return for prizes. As further commitment, even the Master of Ceremonies (MC) for the event was hosted by Hamed Morady, P.Eng., who recently received his certificate at the Spring 2007 Certificate Ceremony. The York Chapter plans on continuing the tradition of having a certificate recipient from a prior ceremony to be the MC of an upcoming certificate ceremony. Over 100 members, family and guests attended the dinner and certificate ceremony where 20 new P.Eng. members received their certificate. Please join us in welcoming the new members to our profession and to York Chapter.

Gordon Ip P.Eng., Certificate Director

Councillor's Corner

Sustaining PEO Chapters

In my opinion, PEO East Central chapters have problems with inadequate funding. In PEO today, I feel that the chapter system is confronted with ever increasing downloading of regulatory programs from PEO. However, chapter funding may not be adequately adjusted to make such downloading sustainable.

At the East Central Region Congress on September 25, 2007, our chapter chairs and vice chairs reached consensus on the following issues:

1. Need for an equitable chapter funding model that reflects the needs in our chapter business plans;
2. Need for a revised Business Plan Expense Guideline, because the current guideline is outdated and out of touch; and
3. Chapters are fed up with their "poverty," which is affecting morale.

In order to address the above issues, the East Central Region made the following two petitions by means of presentations to the Regional Councillors Committee (RCC) meeting on September 27, 2007.

Matthew Xie, P.Eng., York Chapter Chair, made a presentation called "A Fair Funding Model for PEO Chapters" to the RCC. He explained: 1. the perceived problems of the current chapter funding model, 2. recommendation of a new funding model, and 3. highlights of the York Chapter's 2008 business plan.

I, acting as the Senior East Central Region Councillor, made a presentation called "Allotment for Special Needs 2008" to the RCC. I argued: 1. that the East Central Region has special needs, 2. chapter allotments should be merit-based and activities-based, and 3. requested accommodation with additional funding for our region.

Even though the outcome of the above two petitions would not increase funding for 2008, the Regional Councillors Committee has established a Chapter Business Plan Model Subcommittee to study a better funding model for 2009. This subcommittee would be grateful for input from the overall membership on this study.

We all share a common goal of making PEO program downloading sustainable. Every step that each of us can take to make chapter funding more equitable and realistic will be a collective step forward in the right direction. (Details see page 9 of Engineering Dimensions Nov./Dec. 2007, at www.peo.on.ca)

Thomas Chong, MSc, P.Eng., Senior East Central Region Councillor, PEO



(Top)Lily Radulovic & family at Fall Presentation



(L-R)Kam Ko & Matthew Xie at Fall Presentation



(R-L)Reza Moridi, MPP, & Thomas Chong at Fall Presentation



York University Mentorship Program

The objective of the York University Mentorship Program is to nominate PEO York Chapter P.Eng. members as advisors and resources to York University professors to guide the graduating year engineering students to develop and complete their final engineering design project, which is part of the course curriculum before graduation. The mentors will provide practical advice, technical consulting and project management skills to the students. After months of preparation and working with a selected group of York chapter P.Eng. members, the mentorship program is now well underway with nine mentors and six engineering student teams. All of the student teams have met and consulted with their mentors regarding the functional design, project plan and final presentation.

Some of the interesting projects include a wireless activation robot, temperature adjustment garment and microsatellite payload radiator. The students will be judged on the soundness of their design, team work, report writing and oral presentation skills at the end of the term.

Ed Fung P.Eng., York University Mentorship Program



Ryerson University Mentorship Program

The York Chapter–Ryerson University Mentorship Program entered its second year. With experiences from our pilot program, the mentorship program for the Civil Engineering Department kicked off this September for the 2007-2008 academic year. Three of the 11 mentors for the Civil Engineering Department are volunteers from the York Chapter. Mentors have been guiding students on their final year design project since the start of the school year. The student groups are required to complete diagnostic analyses and develop feasible design solutions, including cost estimates and project schedule in the fall semester. Detailed design, specifications and construction drawings will be carried out in the spring semester. Being a mentor myself this year, I am privileged to work with the faculty and a group of five students on a project I “created.” It has been great learning experiences for both of the students and mentor engineers.

Meetings were held with faculty members of the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department and Aerospace Engineering Department to identify project needs and titles. Our project coordinators will begin matching student projects with mentors in December for project start in January 2008. We are looking forward to another exciting year with mentoring Ryerson engineering students.

Edward Poon, P.Eng., Program Director, Ryerson Mentorship Program

Government Liaison Program

York Chapter GLPC is responsible for maintaining contact with the seven MPPs who represent our area. The committee is responsible for: presenting the views of engineers to the politicians on various issues and proposed legislation changes; making them aware of the role of engineers in society; showing how engineers can help them with many problems; and helping them understand the role of PEO in regulating the profession.

We were active during the recent provincial election in meeting the candidates and attending fund raising events. Now we are contacting the newly elected or re-elected members with the intent to establish a regular contact with them. If you are interested in this activity please contact Gerry Meade, P.Eng., at gerry.meade@peoyork.com.

Gerry Meade P.Eng., GLP Director

OSPE Update

OSPE held its first Annual MPP reception at Queen’s Park on October 30, 2007, the same day as the swearing-in ceremony. Attendees included MPPs, OSPE’s President and Chair, Board Directors and PEO President and senior staff. OSPE representatives had good discussions with the MPPs to promote its advocacy initiatives. It was a huge success.

OSPE participated at the Chapter Leaders Conference held on November 9 and 10, 2007. OSPE was the proud sponsor of the Hospitality Lounge on Friday night following a networking dinner with PEO chapter delegates. It was a great opportunity for OSPE Board Directors to meet with chapter delegates to foster future collaborations.

For more details on our recent activities, please log on to www.ospe.on.ca.

Edward Poon, P.Eng., OSPE Director

Vice-Chair’s Message

I would like to welcome all EITs to the PEO York Chapter. Reflecting on this year, we organized numerous activities, CN tower climb, Design Challenge for York region schools, Toyota plant tour, Pratt and Whitney tour, University mentoring programs, Certificate Presentations, seminars and many more.

All the above would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our voluntary executive engineers in our chapter who provided so much in promoting engineering in our community. One of the highlights this year was the mentoring program started by Ed Poon, P.Eng., our past Chair with York and Ryerson University. The program provided mentoring to final year University students doing their final year projects. It provided the final year students with a taste of what engineering is in the real world.

I would encourage all of you to come out to our meetings to get involved in your local chapter. Please also make use of this Yahoo group to communicate ideas or to do some networking, whether you are looking for work or to change jobs. (Please visit our website: www.peoyork.com) Again, I wish you and your family Happy Holidays and a very good 2008.

Kam Leong P.Eng., Vice-Chair York Chapter



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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Call for Nominations

The nominating committee of the York Chapter PEO is accepting nominations for the Chapter Directorate. The chapter executives are volunteer members with no remuneration, who donate time and effort to participate in the operations and functions of the chapter.

Article 4 of the Chapter by-laws states:

1. The Directorate shall be not less than six members and not more than twelve members. A quorum shall be five.
2. A nominating committee comprised of one member of the current directorate and two members at large shall be appointed by the current executive. A notice shall be sent annually to all members requesting nominations for the directorate. The nominations must be received by the committee two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Nominations must bear the signature of two nominators and the nominee. A nominee must be a member of the chapter.
3. A slate of candidates including all those properly nominated shall be proposed by the nominating committee for presentation at the AGM.
4. The directorate shall be elected at the AGM from the proposed slate of candidates.
5. The directorate will meet immediately after AGM to elect the officers from its members.

6. The officers shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. The immediate Past Chair shall be an office ex-officio. The office of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

For a copy of the York Chapter by-laws, contact Chapter Secretary Steven Liu at steven.liu@peoyork.com

All nominations must be received by the committee 2 weeks prior to the AGM, at the address below by February 1, 2008. All York members are encouraged to attend and partake in the election process.

York Chapter PEO, Ed Poon, P. Eng., Nominating Committee
P.O. Box 186, 7305 Woodbine Ave., Markham, ON L4C 4H0

The AGM will be held on February 16, 2008 (see below).

Annual General Meeting 2008

The York Chapter Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in conjunction with the Winter Licence Presentation with dinner and entertainment on Saturday, February 16, 2008, at the Richmond Hill Country Club, 8905 Bathurst Street, north of Hwy. 7, Richmond Hill. Tel. 905-731-2800.

Details of the AGM and online registration will be notified by email in January and published on the York Chapter website at www.peoyork.com, or contact Dennis Woo at dwoo@peoyork.com

Programs Report

Thank you for your support and participation of events in this quarter. Our seminars, charity event and technical tour were well attended. While we continue to offer traditional seminars and tours, we also Thank you for your support and participation of events in this quarter. Our seminars, charity event and technical tour were well attended. While we continue to offer traditional seminars and tours, we also experiment with different types of events. For example, the CN Tower Climb on October 23, 2007 attracted 20 engineers and raised over \$2100 in less than four weeks. Not only the participants enjoyed the exercise and the fun, the money we raised will help supporting our local communities.

Our September seminar on "Achieving Successes in Canadian Business Environment" was a sold out event. To accommodate more engineers, we organized an encore of this seminar in the following week in October. Again, we were encouraged by the strong turnout, where over 55 engineers attended this seminar. We also arranged a financial planning seminar, where we received over 80 registration requests.

In November, we organized a technical tour to the Pratt & Whitney Canada plant where jet engines are designed, developed, built and tested. This is a three-hour tour with an opportunity to network with other engineers. Here are some of the feedbacks we received:

"I most enjoyed being able to see in great detail how a Jet Turbine Engine goes together and now appreciate the engineering challenges that entails."

"The 4:30 tour time was good and the food and beverage selection first class."

"I thoroughly enjoyed the evening's events and the networking."

"It was very intimate to be able to be up close to the engines in the assembling and testing cells."

In order to provide better services to our engineers, we have started to experiment with an online registration and payment option.

This was first put into use for the Pratt & Whitney tour in November. Although there is a cost component of using this service, it is minimal compared to the benefits it offers. It greatly reduces our administration tasks so that we can put more focus on the event. Using this system, we are able to institute instant registration confirmation, real-time registration availability, online payment, a central point to see other PEO York Chapter events, and subscription to our event announcement via RSS. We hope that this will greatly improve your experience and your satisfaction. Looking ahead for future events? Please visit this link:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/org/43221447?s=878458>. Subscribe to our events via RSS feeds and other convenient mechanisms using your MSN, Yahoo, and Google account.

Finally, I am always eager to hear what you think about the events that we organized. This will help us to deliver values that meet your expectations. Your ideas and suggestions are gold to us. Please feel free to drop me a few lines via email. Moreover, if you like to help us to organize events on a part time basis, please let me know too.

Dennis Woo, PhD, P.Eng., Program Director, dwoo@peoyork.com

