



## Chair's Message



It's another year and soon it will be 2010 and my term as Chair of the Chapter is about to turn one year in February 2010. I would like to point out some of the past activities that the Chapter has done for our community at York.

York continues to excel in our mentoring program for 4th year engineering students at York and Ryerson University. The mentoring program has been in place for several years and our mentors continue to improve on the quality of the program and both the students and mentors benefited from learning from each other. This year I signed up as a mentor at York University. In the coming years I appeal to all of you to continue to support this initiative so as to help our future engineers better prepare themselves after their graduation.

This year for the first time the York Chapter offered 5 scholarships to high school students that had chosen engineering at university. The selection process was very difficult for us as each of the applicants had a very good write up. Next year our Chapter intends to give out more scholarships and I am appealing for your help in asking your company to help out in providing this scholarship. In return we will advertise and promote your company in our events and newsletter.

York Chapter also received an Outstanding Leadership Award in PEO's Government Liaison Initiative. I had the honour in receiving this award at Queen's Park in a PEO/MPP reception organized by the PEO. I have to recognise Gerry Meade and his team in working very hard in getting this award.

Our Mathletics Competition for Grade 7 and 8 students was held on November 14, 2009. This is the second year that we have held this event and I have personally thanked Mayor Frank Scarpitti for allowing us to hold this event in the council chamber. The students that attended the last event had a great time and also learned to solve engineering math problems.

I have to stop here as York Chapter has a long list of community outreach initiatives that cannot be outlined in this short message. I encourage all members to continue to serve your profession in our community and to make our community aware of what Professional Engineering is about.

In closing I wish you and your family Happy Holidays and may 2010 bring good health to all.

Kam S. Leong, P.Eng.  
Chair, York Chapter

## Vice Chair's Message



This is my 8th year serving York Chapter. I am very proud to be part of a group of energetic fellow executives reaching out to 7,000 York Chapter members.

In 2009, chapter executives organized more events than any year before. Realizing nowadays technology and electronic communication is more effective than mailing letters as well as handling payments, we successfully launched EventBrite for event registration and on-line payment. We are the only chapter among the 37 chapters in Ontario to implement a totally paperless system for all the events.

With the newly designed website, we are able to update our members more frequently. Every event turns out to have full attendance.

Particularly, the "Will & Estate Seminar" and "Pratt & Whitney tour" were so popular that we have more than one event date for each in order to accommodate the overwhelming member's interests.

This is the professional organization that you belong to. This is your home chapter. Be part of it!

Be proud of it! Please visit our website frequently and become volunteers of our chapter by sending us an email: [volunteers@peoyork.com](mailto:volunteers@peoyork.com)

I wish every member and your loved ones to have a Happy Holidays.

Sarah Jin, MBA, P.Eng.  
Vice Chair, York Chapter

## Chapter Board 2009/2010

### Officers

**Chair:** Kam Leong, P.Eng.  
**Vice Chair:** Sarah Jin, P.Eng.  
**Secretary:** Gordon Ip, P.Eng.  
**Treasurer:** Ronnie Fong, P.Eng.  
**Past Chair:** Matthew Xie, P.Eng.

### Executives

**Certificate Director:** Donald Eng, P.Eng.  
**Comm. Director:** Dennis Woo, PhD, P.Eng.  
**Education Director:** Gord Young, P.Eng.  
**GLP Director:** Ed Fung, P.Eng.  
**Program Director:** Simon Hum, P.Eng.  
**Executive:** Edward Poon, P.Eng.  
**Executive:** Thomas Chong, P.Eng.

## Contact Us

**Mailing Address:** Professional Engineers  
Ontario - York Chapter  
Box 186, 7305 Woodbine Avenue  
Markham, ON L3R 3V7

**Web Address:** <http://www.peoyork.com>

## CN Tower Climb for the United Way

We started this tradition 3 years ago. Every October a team of good hearted engineers climb 1776 steps to the observation deck



of CN Tower to raise money for United Way. This year is no exception: 14 people participated and raised over \$1300. Our goal: help others, meet new friends and have fun!

Next year, we will climb again and I hope you will be part of our team.

Dennis Woo, PhD, P.Eng.  
Team Captain 2007-2009



## Certificate Ceremony News

This past September 26th, the PEO York Chapter had their fall P. Eng. Certificate Ceremony at the Richmond Hill Golf Club. We had 38 recipients receive their certification and on behalf of the Executive and myself, I would like to congratulate all of them. It was a very successful night starting off with the awarding of the five scholarships to five deserving first year engineering students, a great dinner from the Golf Course, an inspirational speech from Sue Tang and concluding with the presentation of certificates to the recipients. Please visit our website to see the pictures of ceremony at [www.peoyork.com](http://www.peoyork.com) in the Photo Gallery.



Licence recipients  
September 2009  
Photographed by Aisha Chiguichon

I would like to thank all the executives, volunteers and the Richmond Hill Golf Club Staff that helped make this a successful night. Our next ceremony presentation will be held on Saturday, February 20th, 2010 at the Richmond Hill Country Club. The ceremony will be held in conjunction with the PEO York Chapter Annual Group Meeting (AGM), where we will discuss the past years successes and hold our election for next year's executives.

Don Eng, P.Eng.  
Certificate Director

## Program News

The York Chapter of PEO thanks its members for their interest and support of all program events and seminars. York Chapter is also sensitive to the current economic times, active on technical development, and proactive to the needs of its members for retirement planning. This has been reflected in the diverse program events and seminars offered by York Chapter in the past year.

First, the economic downturn was a reminder to be cautious of feeling too comfortable in our current positions and not to ignore other sources of funding for corporate projects. Many members enjoyed the seminar "Do I Have a Job Tomorrow?" This event provided practical advice on securing our current

employment, preparing for a new position, and recognizing the benefits of self-employment. Equally important, the seminar on government grants and funding programs highlighted other available sources of funding not widely known, and would definitely be welcomed news for cash-strapped companies and their professionals.

Second, York Chapter is active on technical development. During the past year, members were able to enjoy a seminar on patent tips for engineers and entrepreneurs, a tour of the GO Transit Maintenance Facility, or a tour and

technical presentation at Pratt & Whitney Canada.

Last of all, the diverse retirement planning needs of individual members require different seminars targeted to a specific audience. Members enjoyed seminars on wills and estates, the how-to of "Engineering Your Retirement", as well as individual pension plans specific to business owners and incorporated professionals.

The York Chapter of PEO again thanks its members for their interest and support.

Simon Hum, P.Eng.  
Program Director

## Communication News

My main goal this term is to setup the infrastructure for our website such that new content can be added with more efficiently and more frequently. To accomplish this, we implemented a popular Content Management System (CMS) called Joomla to manage our website contents. Previously, managing our website was time consuming and often led to delays of information getting posted to our site. With Joomla, updating our website can be completed in much less time. This is important as the executives are volunteers and it is important that they are not burdened by the

administration that can otherwise be delegated using technology properly. As a result of this implementation, a number of new features have been added to our new website, to name a few:

- New home page with integrated event calendar and registration
- Event news for Education Activities, GLP Activities, OSPE, and other York Chapter events.
- Archives of meeting minutes, newsletter and mass emails are also added to our site.
- Photo archives of our events with slideshow and download feature.

As we move forward, I will integrate additional features and services available from our site aiming to improve communication between the chapter and its members.

Reaching out to our executives has also been

made easier. Our new email addresses will be persistent and there is no longer the need to remember multiple email addresses. These new email addresses are listed via clicking the "Contact Us" link on our site.

As always, I am looking for ideas to improve the communications between the members and the chapter. Please don't feel hesitate to send me your feedbacks and comments. Likes and dislikes are equally welcome.

Dennis Woo, PhD, P.Eng.  
Communication Director

## 2010 Chapter Executive Nominations

The nominating committee of the York Chapter PEO is accepting nominations for the Chapter Directorate. The chapter executives are volunteer members who donate time and effort to participate in the operations and functions of the chapter.

There is no direct monetary compensation, except for certain out-of-pocket expenses. The elected executives are required to attend monthly meetings, and participate in certain events/functions. Additional time commitments will vary depending upon the particular role/function of each position.



Pertinent sections of the chapter by-laws Article 4 are:

1. The Directorate shall be not less than six (6) members and not more than twelve (12) members. A quorum shall be five (5).
2. A nominating committee comprised of one (1) member of the current directorate and two (2) 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 (2) weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Nominations must bear the signature of two (2) 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 AGM.
4. The directorate shall be elected at the AGM from the proposed slate of candidates.
5. The directorate will meet immediately after the AGM to elect the officers from its members.
6. The officers shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The immediate Past Chair shall be an officer ex-officio. The office of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

To submit your name for nomination, please forward your full name, PEO number, email, phone number to [2010nomination@peoyork.com](mailto:2010nomination@peoyork.com). For a copy of the York Chapter by-laws, contact Chapter Secretary, Gordon Ip, P.Eng., at [secretary@peoyork.com](mailto:secretary@peoyork.com). All nominations must be received by the committee two (2) weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM), at the address below, by February 1, 2010. All York members are encouraged to attend and partake in the election process.

Nomination Committee

## Government Liaison Program Committee

Our York Chapter was recently presented with the new PEO Government Liaison Project Award at the PEO's fourth annual Queen's Park MPP reception on September 16th. The award was to recognize individual PEO chapters for their efforts to engage local politicians in developing technically sound public policy. The only two winners for this year were our York Chapter and the Algoma Chapter. The Government Liaison Program Committee (GLPC) won the award based on the work with Oak Ridges-Markham MPP, Dr. Helena Jaczek, who had asked York Chapter engineers to examine the electricity distribution needs in northern York Region.

York Chapter GLPC also recently held a breakfast session with York Simcoe MPP, Ms Julia Munro. The objective of the breakfast session was once again to bring our members together with their elected representatives to learn about topics of importance to the engineering community. Julia spoke about various topics including employment and what needs to be done to help small business to navigate red tape. The breakfast was attended by about 30 members and Julia appreciated the opportunity to meet with engineers who were also mostly her constituents.

If you are interested in joining the GLPC, please contact GLP Director: Ed Fung, P.Eng. at [ed.fung@peoyork.com](mailto:ed.fung@peoyork.com).

## Education News

### Design Challenge

On March 5th, during National Engineering Month 2009, The York Chapter Education Committee held their 10th annual Design Challenge for students in grades 7 and 8. It was the largest design challenge yet, with 16 teams of 5 students each from schools from both the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board.

The competition was to build the strongest tower out of spaghetti and modelling clay. The teams were judged on their concept development, design and project management as well as the tower's performance in the testing, with the prize going to the team with the best overall score. In addition to a dedicated team of volunteer engineers, Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees and Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen were on hand to support the kids and help with the judging.

In the end, a team from Unionville Meadows Public School won the top prize.

### E.I.C. Program

In 2009 the Education Committee continued with the Engineer in the Classroom (EIC) Program which is a partnership between engineers and educators that brings real-world experience to

the teaching of science, technology and mathematics. The program connects teachers with volunteer engineers who spend part of a day in a classroom presenting the engineering profession to a group of young minds and helping them see the connection between what is being taught in school and its applications in industry and everyday life.

If you are interested in participating in this program and sharing your engineering experience with a class of children, please send your contact details to [education@peoyork.com](mailto:education@peoyork.com).

### Scholarship Program

Following an exhausting evaluation process, 5 winners of \$500 University Entrance Scholarship Winners were presented with their scholarships at the Fall Certificate Presentation Ceremony. The scholarships were awarded to students graduating from a secondary school in the York Chapter area and who were starting an accredited engineering program at university in the fall. The scholarships were awarded based on each of the student's contributions in the community, their involvement in intra and extracurricular activities, and their intention to make a career in the profession of engineering.

The winners were: Anuja Goyal of Richmond Hill who is starting Electrical Engineering at McMaster University; Gabby Grant of Richmond Hill who is starting Software Engineering at the University of Waterloo; Nathan Leung of Concord who is starting Mechanical Engineering at Queens University; Jeff Light of Newmarket who is starting Civil Engineering at the University of Western Ontario; and Yasir Malang of Markham who is starting Engineering Science

York Chapter Mathletics 2009 -- Senior Level Top Five





at the University of Toronto.

### York Chapter Mathletics 2009

The second PEO York Chapter Mathletics competition was held at the Markham Town Centre on November 14th. The contest featured 88 children from the region, evenly split between the "junior" level (up to grade 6) and the "senior" level (from grades 7 and 8).

Mathletics is a competition designed to create a passion in the application of mathematics in solving day-to-day scientific and engineering problems. Students were introduced to technical and engineering concepts with mathematical solutions and challenged to solve them based on the information and formulae provided. The participants used wireless clickers to enter their answers into the central computer that recorded all of the responses and compiled the results for the competition.

University of Toronto professor emeritus Phil Sullivan, P.Eng. opened the ceremony with a talk about the relevance of mathematics in our world today, and Hon. Michael Chan, MPP was on hand to offer congratulations to the participants and hand out the prizes at the end. In addition to prizes for the top three, this year the top 5 of each level were selected to go on to represent York Chapter at the provincial finals in Scarborough.

Gord Young, P.Eng.  
Education Director



2009 Design Challenge Winners:  
Unionville Meadows Public School

## York Chapter's 2009 Supporters and Donors

Each year many individuals and companies supports our efforts by donating their time and/or financial resources to our events. We would like to recognize individuals and corporate sponsors for their generous donations and supports. The following is a partial list of our supporters. A complete list will be posted from our website.

- Barry Barnett, C.Eng, MIMechE, Msc, P.Eng. - Pratt and Whitney Canada. Plant Tour
- George Rosati, P.Eng., MBA - RBC Financial Groups. Seminars
- Jason Schwandt, P.Eng., MBA - Techcentive Services Inc. Seminar
- Matthew Xie, P.Eng. MBA - Multimatic. Seminars and scholarship donations
- Robert B. McClelland, HBA, R.F.P, CFP, - The McClelland Financial Group. Seminar
- KPMG LLP. CN Tower Climb
- Ms. Lily He - CPAC. Provided venue for various seminars
- Ms. Mirando Boffo - COSTI. Provided Venue for various seminars
- Prof. George Zhu - York University
- Mr. Liaquat Ali Shakoori - North American College
- Denis Boulay, BSA, CGA
- Ada Mok, P.Eng. Certificate Ceremony, Education.
- Jackie Fong, P.Eng. Certificate Ceremony, Education.
- Steve Poste, P.Eng. Education
- Joe Ciccone, C.E.T. Education
- Catherine Au, P.Eng. Education
- Joe Bilton, P.Eng. Education
- Azar Hojabr, EIT. Education
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- Greg McIntosh, P.Eng. Education
- Ramona Mirtorabi, EIT. Education
- Janos Molnar, P.Eng. Education
- Alexander Ng, P.Eng. Education
- Benson Ng, P.Eng. Education
- Hari Patel, P.Eng. Education

- Mervat Rashwan, P.Eng. Education
- Dave Ross, P.Eng. Education
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- Paymon Sani, P.Eng. Education
- Rajah Sathiamoorthy, P.Eng. Education
- Phil Sullivan, P.Eng. Education
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- Areva - Education Sponsor
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## OSPE Update

OSPE continued to work closely with PEO Chapter Chairs through its Chapter Liaison Committee. In a recent networking meeting held in October, several initiatives were identified. One of them is Speed Mentoring. The "Speed Mentoring" initiative follows a concept used by Schulich School of Business at York University. It can be seen as an extension to York Chapter's success with its own mentorship programs at Ryerson and York Universities. This initiative extends the mentoring concept to junior engineers and experienced engineers looking for a change in career goals.

On November 21, 2009 Chapter Chairs and Vice Chairs attended the OPEA dinner gala organized by OSPE. At the event, 16 distinguished professional engineers were honoured with the award. For more details of OSPE upcoming events, please log on to: <http://www.ospe.on.ca>.

Edward Poon, P.Eng. OSPE Liaison Chair

## About this Newsletter

This newsletter is published for the benefit of over 7,000 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.

Comments and suggestions of this newsletter should be communicated via email to [communications@peoyork.com](mailto:communications@peoyork.com)

## Placeholder for mailing address