

## Message from the Chair



Another year full of challenges and successes has come to an end. It was challenging because we introduced certain events and activities for the first time in the history of the chapter. One example was our mentoring program. Even though we were not one of the pilot chapters for the Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) mentoring program, other chapters have approached us to learn more about our events. Other examples were the summer picnic and changes to our website at [www.wtpeo.org](http://www.wtpeo.org)

2010 was also a year of success based on the feedback we received from you either verbally or through e-mail. With permission from those who wrote us, their feedback was posted on the chapter website at [www.wtpeo.org](http://www.wtpeo.org). I am very proud of this positive feedback. We hope to serve you even better in the years to come.

Moreover, we added the mandates of our committees to our website for those who want to volunteer or want to join our executive board. This brought us several volunteers, who were very helpful with organizing and managing some of our events. We also updated our website to add additional information for our members, such as the map of the Willowdale/Thornhill chapter and a precise definition of the Willowdale/Thornhill

region by listing all postal codes in the region.

However, the most important thing for me as chair in 2010 was seeing the teamwork and cooperation among the executives and our volunteers. We had a great team to work with and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication. We definitely would not have been able to accomplish our many achievements without their help and commitment.

2010 was also a year of change for PEO. PEO approved and recognized two new engineering disciplines. Those specialties, nanotechnology and molecular engineering, and communications infrastructure engineering became respectively, the 31st and 32nd disciplines recognized in Ontario.

Also, Bill 68 passed at Queen's Park in October with 66 proposed changes to the *Professional Engineers Act*. Among its various changes, the bill calls for the removal of the so-called "industry exemption." What does this mean? Prior to the bill, several enterprises that required internal engineering staff did not need to hire licensed professional engineers to fill those positions. However with the introduction of Bill 68, those same companies are now obligated to do so. This means a higher demand for engineers in the market, which results in a better job market and higher pay for engineers.

There are also some other changes that may prove to be less beneficial for members, and have caused debate. For instance, the power to amend PEO by-laws has now been transferred to PEO council. That includes matters that previously went to the general membership for approval such as membership fee changes.

In addition, in November PEO council approved a motion that will see the president be elected under new rules, starting in 2013. Candidates for president will be confined to

members of council, and the president will be elected by council. The new system has caused debate among the membership and has divided PEO council with several councillors in favour and a number against. Expressing our opinions is vital for every member who cares about PEO and the engineering profession.

In September, Willowdale/Thornhill, through the East Central Regional Congress, raised a motion to delay a proposed referendum regarding PEO presidential elections until

further consultation has been conducted with the members. We said what we wanted to say, so be sure to make your voice heard.

I admit that some of my statements, particularly my remarks about Bill 68, do not necessarily represent those of the chapter. However, I will be more than happy to discuss any of these items with you.

Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC  
Chair, Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter

## An Explanation from the Chair

Now that the Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) election voting period has come to an end, I am writing to discuss the reasons for the delay of this issue of *The Chronicle*, which was scheduled for release in late January. As you may know, in the election, I was a candidate for councillor for the East Central region. The newsletter was ready for distribution on schedule, but the PEO communications office rejected the original version, due to the inclusion of my photograph with my "Message from the Chair." The publication of this photograph along with the message is standard practice for *The Chronicle*. However, PEO officials claimed it provided additional publicity for my candidacy, giving me an unfair advantage over my opponent, allegedly a violation of PEO election publicity rules. Another photo from one of our recent events temporarily replaced my picture in a subsequent unpublished version of *The Chronicle*.

In addition, an article related to the election proved to be problematic, and because of the very nature of that article, it had to be revised several times to comply with PEO election publicity rules. In the end, after several drafts, it was edited out of the newsletter. In my capacity as chair, I finally made the decision to put the newsletter on hold and send the notice of the upcoming annual general meeting in its place, via e-mail and mail. In the meantime, I verified this matter with PEO election personnel. I finally received a response that read: "There is nothing in the procedures to preclude you from including your picture with your Chapter Chair's Message as it would be obvious to a reader that it would be in that capacity that it appears – not as a candidate."

I apologize on behalf of the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter and the PEO for this matter and the subsequent delay of this issue of *The Chronicle*. In the end, I wish to advise you that the above message was written in January and should be read keeping that in mind. I encourage you to get involved with the PEO and the chapter to have your say in PEO governance. Please complete the chapter board nomination form and join us on the board.

Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC  
Chair, Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter



Are we seeing double?!? The two Michael Chans: Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter Government Liaison Chair Michael Chan, P.Eng. (left), meets Markham Liberal MPP Michael Chan (right) at the chapter's HST Town Hall meeting.



Engineers and politicians alike gathered to discuss the recent implementation of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) at the HST Town Hall meeting at Holiday Inn in Markham on January 18, 2011. From left to right: PEO Vice President Corneliu Chisu, P.Eng.; Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC; Ontario Revenue Minister Sophia Aggelonitis; East-Central PEO Councillor Thomas Chong, P.Eng.; Scarborough-Rouge River MPP Bas Balkissoon. (Courtesy of Georg Kralik).

## Volunteering Pays Off in Willowdale/Thornhill

By Ali Nabili, P.Eng.

Volunteerism is looked upon with admiration in Canadian society; millions of Canadians are proud volunteers. However, many volunteers are not aware of the awards they might be eligible to receive.

The Award Committee of the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter is seeking individuals who might meet the requirements of the following awards:

- G. Gordon M. Sterling Engineering Intern Award  
[www.peo.on.ca/awards/Sterling/SterlingApp2009.pdf](http://www.peo.on.ca/awards/Sterling/SterlingApp2009.pdf)
- Ontario Volunteer Service Award  
[www.gao.ca/index.php/ci\\_id/6228/la\\_id/1](http://www.gao.ca/index.php/ci_id/6228/la_id/1)

If you are eligible for either one of the above awards, or both, you may submit your application on your own, or through us and we will pass the info on to PEO on your behalf. Just come forward and introduce yourself, along with supporting documents that detail your credentials.

We are also pleased to notify our members (professional engineers and engineers-in-

training) that we are currently launching an internal chapter award system for the first time in Willowdale/Thornhill. We definitely could use your suggestions and ideas. Any comments or advice on the following issues are welcomed:

- What requirements and qualifications do you think the award winner must have?
- What framework do you believe we should follow to pick the right person?
- What kind of hardware do you want us to present to the winners? (i.e. medal, appreciation letter)
- What basic line of action do you suggest we pursue?

The Award Committee of the Willowdale/Thornhill Chapter also welcomes volunteers to the committee. Please send your comments or questions to the Award Committee at [awards@wtpeo.org](mailto:awards@wtpeo.org).

**Ali Nabili, P.Eng.**, is the Awards Committee Chair of the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter.

### THE CHRONICLE

**Editor:** Nanda Lwin, **Contributors:** Georg Kralik, Ali Nabili, Changiz Sadr

### Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter Executive

**Chair:** Changiz Sadr, **Vice Chair:** Nanda Lwin, **Past Chair:** Noubar Takessian, **Treasurer:** Mehrangiz Kafi, **Secretary:** Vimbai Munyukwi, **Certificate Presentations:** Gary Marcarian, **Government Liaison:** Michael Chan, **Education:** Ramona Mirtorabi, **Programs:** Nanda Lwin, **Engineers-in-Training:** Vimbai Munyukwi, **Publications:** Nanda Lwin, **Web Support:** Mohammad Horriyat; **Awards:** Ali Nabili

**The Chronicle** publishes articles of interest to the membership of Willowdale/Thornhill Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Chapter. The content of this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the council of PEO, nor does the PEO assume responsibility for the opinions expressed herein.

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## ENGINEERING NOTES by Nanda Lwin, P.Eng.

# The Year 2010 in Review in Willowdale/Thornhill

2010 was an eventful year for the Willowdale/Thornhill Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Chapter. Here is a chronological list of events during the year:

**March 6th:** 135 people were in attendance for the certificate presentation held at the Holiday Inn at Steeles and Woodbine Avenues. A total of 46 new professional engineers were presented their licence certificates. Guest speakers included Willowdale MPP David Zimmer, University of Waterloo provost & VP Academic Feridun Hamdullahpur, P.Eng., and PEO President Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC. A dance disc jockeyed by "DJ Wild Bill" Wilson followed the ceremonies.

**March 31st:** Tapan Das, P.Eng., author of *Why Astrology is a Science*, spoke with members of the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter at Fairview Library. Almost 50 people came out to hear Das speak of the link between the stars and science.

**April 28th:** Another seminar of note came from former Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter executive Bogdan Damanjovic, P.Eng., who talked about the high cost of employee turnover. Damanjovic's seminar, "Love'em or Lose'em: Retention Strategies for Engineering Managers," provided tips and strategies for developing an employee retention program and to become a favoured employer among jobseekers.

**April 29th:** An exclusive tour for Willowdale/Thornhill PEO members of Downsview Park offered a look at the giant urban park's present development program. A presentation was held at the head office of the park's corporation, followed by an outdoor tour of the park. The presentation and tour was hosted by Downsview Park president Tony Genco, who went on to unsuccessfully run for the federal Liberals in an October by-election in Vaughan against Conservative Julian Fantino.

**May 25th:** Engineering Internship Training (EIT) Networking Night was held at Pleasant View Library. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the various programs the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter and the PEO's EIT program offer. The evening included summaries from various chapter committees, and remarks by Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter EIT Chair Vimbai Munyukwi, P.Eng., and Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC.

**June 21st:** Corporate magician Anthony Lindan held the "Magic of Collaboration Team Building Workshop" at the Fairview Library. The workshop, which aim was to use magic tricks to explain the importance of team-building, was attended by 60 people.

**June 28th:** The Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter Education Committee held its first scholarship program at North York Civic Centre. The recipients included three Newtonbrook Secondary School students and one Earl Haig Secondary School student.

**July 19th:** Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, gave a presentation entitled "Values of the P.Eng. Licence" at the ACCES offices in Don Mills. Sadr spoke to the audience, comprising mostly new Canadians, about how foreign-trained engineers can register with PEO.

**July 31st:** The Ontario Society of Professional Engineers' (OSPE) first annual summer barbecue was held in Milne Park in Markham. In attendance were Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter executives, Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, and Vice Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng.

**August 28th:** The Willowdale/Thornhill Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Chapter,



led by Programs Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng., held its first annual summer picnic at Downsview Dells Park. Approximately 40 people were in attendance.

**September 21st:** The Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter held its first mentorship information event at North York Civic Centre. The event was primarily an opportunity for participants to network and gather information about licensing, PEO, the engineers-in-training program, and employment prospects for engineers in Ontario. Hosted by Education Chair Ramona Mirtorabi, P.Eng., the event had over 110 attendees.

**September 22nd:** PEO held its fifth annual Engineering for Ontario Day reception at Queen's Park. In attendance were Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter executives, Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, Vice Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng., and Government Liaison Chair Michael Chan, P.Eng.

**September 29th:** Approximately 60 people showed up for "How to Successfully Identify and Manage Crucial Conversations in the Workplace," a seminar hosted by University of Toronto instructor Min Eng.

**October 16th:** Led by Deputy Programs Chair Carey Cox, P.Eng., the chapter took a leisure trip to Casino Rama in Rama, Ontario. Located near Orillia, the casino is home to gambling, shopping and entertainment venues, along with an upscale hotel and several eateries.

**October 26th:** About 50 people were in attendance at a Willowdale/Thornhill PEO

Chapter mentorship event at Fairview Library. The event, designed to update on happenings with the chapter's new mentorship program, included guest speaker Ontario Society of Professional Engineers Chapters Liaison Chair Matthew Xie, P.Eng.

**October 30th:** The Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter visited the new wind tunnel facilities at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa. The facilities are located at the university's General Motors Automotive Centre of Excellence.

**November 6th:** Over 100 people were in attendance for the certificate presentation held at the Holiday Inn at Steeles and Woodbine avenues. A total of 51 new professional engineers were presented their licence certificates. Babak Samareh, an engineering Ph.D. candidate and research assistant at the University of Toronto, spoke about his research.

**November 30th:** The Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter, in conjunction with Engineers Without Borders (EWB), hosted "Leadership in the Workplace: The EWB Way!" Approximately 60 people attended the seminar at Fairview Library, hosted by Danielle Zacarias of EWB.

**December 7th:** Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, gave a repeat performance of his presentation entitled "Values of the P.Eng. Licence" at the Pleasant View Library.

## Parting Shots...

Over 100 people attended the Harmonized Sales Tax Town Hall meeting held on January 18th at the Holiday Inn in Markham. Both Tourism and Culture Minister **Michael Chan** (who is also MPP for Markham) and Revenue Minister **Sophia Aggelonitis** spoke at the event. Sitting on the panel asking questions of the ministers were Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) President **Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC**, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers President **John Schindler, P.Eng.**, Consulting Engineers of Ontario President **Barry Steinberg, P.Eng.**, and Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter Chair **Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC**.

Over 60 people attended the January 25th mentoring and networking event at Fairview Library. The event was hosted by Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter executives Chair **Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC**, and Education Chair **Ramona Mirtorabi, P.Eng.**

The Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter hosted a bridge competition event on February 26th at Newtonbrook Secondary School. The event was open to interested high school students.



Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Vice Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng. (left) and Danielle Zacarias (right) of Engineers Without Borders pose for the camera at the "Leadership in the Workplace: The EWB Way!" seminar on November 30, 2010, at Fairview Library. The seminar was hosted by Zacarias. (Courtesy of Georg Kralik).

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**When:** Starting at 6 PM on Saturday, March 12, 2011

**Where:** Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Markham, 7095 Woodbine Avenue, Markham, Ontario.  
Phone: (905) 474-0444

**What:** An annual general meeting to elect an executive. A certificate presentation and dinner are to follow.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [secretary@wtpeo.org](mailto:secretary@wtpeo.org).

### Call for Executive Nominations, Annual General Meeting

If you want to run for a position on the board of executives, please complete and submit the nomination form published in this newsletter. Instructions are printed on the form. All executive positions are voluntary with no direct monetary compensation, except for specific out-of-pocket expenses. The executive meets once a month and participates in events and functions of the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter.

## Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter Board of Executives Nomination

Dear valued members of the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter: If you are interested, enthusiastic, available, committed to your fellow engineers and the engineering profession, and would like to join the board of executives and take up a role in your chapter's governance, please complete the nomination form below and send it to the Nomination Committee through one of the following ways:

- Email it to [nomination@wtpeo.org](mailto:nomination@wtpeo.org)
- Hand deliver it to a present member of the board of executives

Completed forms must be received by the Nomination Committee by 5 PM on Friday, March 11, 2011.

Please note that members who are eligible to endorse this nomination are members of the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter, and do not include professional engineers who reside outside the boundaries of the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter, and members not fully licensed, such as engineers-in-training (EIT), and limited engineering licensees (LEL).

**Incomplete or inaccurate forms will not be accepted.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Licence number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Home chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been an executive member of a chapter? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, which chapter and what was your contribution?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please specify the date you served. Start date: \_\_\_\_\_ End date: \_\_\_\_\_

Why would you like to join the board of executives?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which activities are you interested in? Officer position: \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate presentation/AGM \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter/publication \_\_\_\_\_ Award/election \_\_\_\_\_

Education/student outreach \_\_\_\_\_ Government liaison \_\_\_\_\_ Engineer-in-training (EIT) \_\_\_\_\_

Web support \_\_\_\_\_ Programs (seminars/tours) \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We, the undersigned, are members in good standing of the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter and endorse the above-mentioned applicant for the board of executives.

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

Licence number \_\_\_\_\_ Licence number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_