

## Message from the Chair



Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng. (left) welcomes Premier Kathleen Wynne (then Liberal leadership candidate) to Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter's 50th Anniversary celebrations at the Bayview Golf & Country Club on November 24, 2012.

The last few months have been incredibly eventful and ambitious for the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter.

The chapter, founded in 1962, turned 50 in 2012. Our ongoing celebrations of this milestone culminated in a lavish dinner and dance on November 24 at the upscale Bayview Golf & Country Club in Thornhill, primarily organized by Vice Chair Vimbai Munyai, P.Eng. As Chair, I couldn't be more proud. We welcomed old friends, colleagues, past chairs, MPP's Glen Murray and Michael Coteau, and then Liberal leadership contender and now Premier Kathleen Wynne.

As a chapter, we have had several seminars offered to our members. Since I last wrote, we hosted a talk on will and estate planning, a seminar on managing stress, and a technical presentation by member Michael Sommerstein, P.Eng., about building sci-

ence. Our seminars run the gamut from personal finance to well-being to technology, a reminder of the diverse and wide range of interests of our membership.

Our two most recent certificate presentations were held in December and March, where we initiated newly licensed professional engineers. In all, we ushered in 90 new engineers at the Holiday Inn in Markham working in various specialties of engineering.

For National Engineering Month, we paid tribute to our profession the best way we know how: we held an open forum for high school and college students introducing them to engineering and the different disciplines. Past Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, spoke of the virtues of communications infrastructure engineering, Vice Chair Munyai talked about chemical engineer-

ing, while mechanical engineer Badree Khorasani gave a talk on her discipline. Meanwhile Joseph Ciccone, CET, chair of the Toronto Chapter of the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists lectured on the advantages of becoming a technologist.

The PEO Council elections, held online and by phone in the winter, resulted in two of our members getting elected. In a spirited race that saw two Willowdale/Thornhill members go head to head, the aforementioned Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, sailed to an easy victory as a new East-Central Councillor. Meanwhile Roger Jones, P.Eng., won a tight contest, regaining his seat as a Councillor-at-Large.

All in all, we've had a good run. However, all good things eventually come to an end. And my chairmanship is no exception. It is now the end of my second and final term, and my time is up. By the time you read this, it is quite likely that someone else is playing the role of chief executive, leading the pack. It has indeed been a pleasure and an honour to have served as your chair. I thank you for the privilege.

Nanda Lwin, P.Eng.  
Chair, Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter  
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Former chairs pose with Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng., at the 50th Anniversary celebrations, held at the Bayview Golf & Country Club on November 24, 2012. Pictured from left to right: Richard Braddock, P.Eng., Kanapathipilla Senathirajah, P.Eng., Noubar Takessian, P.Eng., Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., Lwin.

### Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter Executive 2012-2013

**Chair:** Nanda Lwin, **Vice Chair:** Vimbai Munyukwi, **Past Chair:** Changiz Sadr, **Treasurer:** Maziyar Bolour, **Secretary:** Souheila Bardakji, **50th Anniversary:** Vimbai Munyukwi, **Certificate Presentation/Annual General Meeting:** Mehrangiz Kafi, **Government Liaison:** Rajiv Srivastava, **Education:** Farzaneh Omrani, **Programs:** Aung Ko Ko Kyaw, **Engineering Internship:** Min Pan, **Publications:** (vacant), **Electronic Media:** Mohammad Horriyat; **Awards:** Ali Nabili

**The Chronicle** publishes articles of interest to the membership of the 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 PEO assume responsibility for the opinions expressed herein.

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## Willowdale/Thornhill's 2012-2013 in Review

The 2012-13 season, from March 13, 2012 to April 9, 2013, was an eventful year for the Willowdale/Thornhill Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Chapter. Here is a chronological list of events during the year, based on remarks by Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng. at the chapter's annual general meeting on March 19, 2013:

### Programs

The following seminars and talks were held during the 2012-2013 season:

- Straight Talk - What's Hot, What's Not, ETF's (presented by Jaime Keen and Kevin Prins) (March 2012)
- Straight Talk - What's Hot, What's Not, ETF's (encore presentation) (Jaime Keen and Kevin Prins) (March 2012)
- Licensing Procedure - The Benefit of a P.Eng. Licence, seminar (Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC) (April 2012)
- Shifting Ground Under the Scientific Research & Experimental Development Tax Incentive Program (SR&ED) (Victor Cucos) (May 2012)
- Attitudes for Effective Communications (Gabriela Casineanu) (July 2012)
- Not Another Meeting (Alasdair Robertson) (July 2012)
- Keeping Your Eye on the Prize (Radha Maharaj) (August 2012)
- Stress Management (Mandy Seifi) (October 2012)
- Proper Planning Today to Maximize Tax Efficient Income in Retirement (Janet Baccarani and Jennifer Black) (November 2012)
- Pressure Equalized Rain Screen Building Envelope Design and Microclimate Green Ambient Electrical Energy Generating System (Michael Sommerstein, P. Eng.) (January 2013)
- The Power of Planning – The Top 10 Most Important Things to Include in a Wealth Management Plan (George Rosati) (March 2013)
- Trip to Wind Tunnel at University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa (April 2013)
- Topics of future seminars include social media, estate and will planning, and personal branding



Naturopathic doctor and stress expert Mandy Seifi talks with Programs Chair Aung Ko Ko Kyaw, EIT after Seifi's seminar on stress management at the Thornhill Community Centre in Thornhill on October 23, 2012.



Civil engineer and Willowdale/Thornhill member Michael Sommerstein, P.Eng., spoke to the membership of his research in building science technology in the seminar “Pressure Equalized Rain Screen Building Envelope Design and Microclimate Green Ambient Electrical Energy Generating System.” The event was held at Thornhill Community Centre on January 29, 2013. Pictured above from left to right: Treasurer Maziyar Bolour, P.Eng, and Sommerstein.

### Awards

- Former Willowdale/Thornhill PEO executives Bogdan Damjanovic, P.Eng., and Michael Chan, P.Eng., received the PEO Volunteer Pin for 10 years of service in January 2013
- Former Chair Noubar Takessian, P.Eng. received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award in March 2012
- Former Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award in March 2012
- Certificate of Appreciation awarded to former executives Gary Marcarian, P.Eng., and Ariel Agor, P.Eng. from the PEO Regional Councillors Committee
- Certificate of Appreciation from Willowdale/Thornhill awarded to Sadr and Takessian in March 2012, and executives Aung Ko Ko Kyaw, EIT, and Maziyar Bolour, P.Eng., in March 2013
- New chapter award system introduced in February 2013
- Two certificates – one for outstanding contribution to the engineering profession, another for contributions to the chapter; both awards recognize volunteerism

### Electronic Media

- Launched a Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/peo.willowdalethornhillchapter](http://www.facebook.com/peo.willowdalethornhillchapter)
- Launched a Twitter account:  
[www.twitter.com/peowillowdale](http://www.twitter.com/peowillowdale)
- Revamped and redesigned our website  
[www.willowdalethornhill.peo.on.ca](http://www.willowdalethornhill.peo.on.ca)
- Launched a LinkedIn account:  
[www.linkedin.com/in/peowillowdalethornhill](http://www.linkedin.com/in/peowillowdalethornhill)
- Successfully sent out notices to events and seminars via mass e-mail



**Willowdale MP Chungsen Leung poses with Government Liaison Chair Rajiv Srivastava, P.Eng., during Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter's Bridge Crushing Competition, held at Seneca College's Newnham Campus on March 24, 2012.**

## Government Liaison

- Don Valley East MPP Michael Coteau attended Willowdale/Thornhill's certificate presentation in March 2012
- Willowdale MP Chungsen Leung in attendance for the Bridge Crushing Competition (March 2012), and the certificate presentation (March 2013)
- Lobbied Willowdale MPP David Zimmer, Thornhill MPP Peter Shurman and Don Valley East MPP Michael Coteau regarding Bill 15, a private member's bill giving legislative recognition to the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, in May 2012
- Attended the Ontario Centre of Engineering and Public Policy conference in May 2012
- Attended vote in the Ontario legislature for Bill 15 in May 2012
- Attended reception for Engineering Day at Queen's Park in October 2012
- MPP Coteau fundraiser in May 2012
- Community picnic of MP Leung in June 2012
- Community picnic of Thornhill MP Peter Kent, and MPP Shurman in June 2012
- MPP Zimmer fundraiser with Finance Minister Dwight Duncan, MPP, in June 2012
- MPP Shurman fundraiser with Senator Michael Duffy in June 2012
- Community picnic of MPP Zimmer in October 2012
- MPP Shurman fundraiser in February 2013

### New Year's Levees Attended:

- Peter Kent MP January 13, 2013
- Michael Coteau MPP January 13, 2013
- Dipika Damerla MPP January 19, 2013
- Linda Jeffrey MPP January 19, 2013
- David Zimmer MPP January 20, 2013
- Dwight Duncan MPP January 22, 2013

Fundraisers and Picnics Attended:



Ontario Society of Professional Engineers President and Chair Nadine Miller, P.Eng., and PEO President Dennis Dixon, P.Eng., speak at the certificate presentation on March 9, 2013 at Holiday Inn Markham.

## Certificate Presentation and Annual General Meeting

- Two certificate presentations (CP) held – one on December 1, 2012 and another on March 9, 2013, both at the Holiday Inn Markham
- A total of 102 new professional engineers receive the license – 51 in December 2012 CP, 51 in March 2013 CP
- Emphasis on entertainment: country singer Shaman Ayerhart performed three of songs which he penned at the March 2013 CP
- Better use of music: classical music played during the presentation of licenses, and music during introduction of the executives
- The annual general meeting (AGM) held at Thornhill Community Centre on March 19, 2013, marking the first time in recent memory that the CP and AGM were held at different venues and at different dates

## Education

### Community Outreach

- Bridge Crushing Competition at Seneca College in celebration of National Engineering Month in March 2012
- Reached out to Seneca, high schools
- Engineering Your Career: An Open Forum to be held on March 24 at Seneca College in celebration of National Engineering Month



Members of the chapter and the community came in droves to attend the Bridge Crushing Competition at Seneca College on March 24, 2012. East-Central Councillor Denis Carlos, P.Eng., waves, while Willowdale/Thornhill executive Maziyar Bolour, P.Eng., looks on. Behind them is the equipment used for the competition.

### Education (continued)

#### Mentorship Program

- Mentorship program transferred from the chapter to PEO, as required by PEO
- The lead-up to PEO-directed program took months
- Willowdale/Thornhill's Mentoring Night 2012 took place last July and marked the beginning of the transfer of power
- Mentorship Appreciation Dinner, a social dinner for mentors and mentees in

the program, took place at North Restaurant in Thornhill in February 2013

#### Scholarship Program

- Two scholarships - \$500 each - were awarded to two local high-school students
- The executive voted to raise the scholarship to \$1,000 each in February 2013

### 50th Anniversary

- Willowdale/Thornhill PEO turned 50 in 2012
- Former Chairs Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, and Noubar Takessian, P.Eng., FEC, awarded Certificate of Appreciation in March 2012
- 50th Anniversary logo on letterhead and *The Chronicle* newsletter
- Dinner and dance celebrating 50th Anniversary was held at Bayview Golf & Country Club in November 2012:
  - Guest speakers included Premier Kathleen Wynne (then Liberal leadership candidate), cabinet minister Glen Murray, and MPP Michael Coteau
  - Opening remarks by Vice-Chair Vimbai Munyukwi, P.Eng.
  - Past and current chairs, five in attendance, honoured
  - Souvenir pens and other keepsakes distributed

### Engineering Internship

- Engineering Internship workshop held in January 2013
- Featured talks by licensing expert Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, Seneca continuing education coordinator Norma Columbus, and PEO's Emily Sabo, P.Eng., and Manoj Choudhary, P.Eng.



Emily Sabo, P.Eng., of PEO, answers a question at the Engineering Internship workshop on January 31, 2013 at Pleasant View Library in Willowdale.

### Other Items

- “Be Part of the Fun” ad campaign continues in *The Chronicle* newsletter in an attempt to recruit new volunteers
- Two Willowdale/Thornhill chapter members head engineering organizations:
  - Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng., became President of Engineers Canada
  - Nadine Miller, P.Eng., became Chair and President of Ontario Society of Professional Engineers
- Chair issues monthly reports, presented at the executive meetings
- Willowdale/Thornhill's Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, and Rajiv Srivastava, P.Eng., ran for East-Central Regional Councillor in the PEO Council elections in February and March 2013
- Roger Jones, P.Eng., from Willowdale/Thornhill ran for Councillor-at-Large
- Sadr and Jones win their respective elections, gaining seats on PEO Council
- Executive meeting held in Thornhill for the first time in recent history in September 2012
- More events held in Thornhill
- Attended PEO annual general meeting in May 2012, and PEO East Central Congresses
- Chapter by-law amendments proposed in March 2013





*Engineering Your Career*, an open forum for high-school and college students headed for engineering school, was held at Seneca College on March 24, 2013. Pictured from left to right: Badree Khorasani, P.Eng., Ontario Association Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists Toronto Central Chapter Chair Joseph Ciccone, CET, Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng., Education Chair Farzaneh Omrani, EIT, Past Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., Secretary Souheila Bardakji, P.Eng., Vice Chair Vimbai Munyukwi, P.Eng.

## Be part of the fun.

Log onto [www.wtpeo.org](http://www.wtpeo.org) and find out how you can volunteer with the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter. Here is just one opportunity where you can help:

Newsletter Committee – If you like to write, edit, take photos, this is an opportunity for you! Please contact us at [publication@wtpeo.org](mailto:publication@wtpeo.org)

## Seminars.

Watch your e-mail for our seminars and workshops on topics of interest to professional engineers.

## Parting Shots...



The Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter executive at the annual general meeting, held at Thornhill Community Centre on March 19, 2013. Standing, from left to right: Programs Chair Aung Ko Ko Kyaw, EIT, former Chair Noubar Takessian, P.Eng., Electronic Media Chair Mohammad Horriyat, P.Eng., Treasurer Maziyar Bolour, P.Eng., Past Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., Secretary Souheila Bardakji, P.Eng., Engineering Internship Chair Min Pan, EIT, Certificate Presentation/AGM Chair Mehri Kafi, P.Eng. Seated: Education Chair Farzaneh Omrani, EIT, Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng., Vice Chair Vimbai Munyukwi, P.Eng. Absent: Government Liaison Program Chair Rajiv Srivastava, P.Eng., Awards Chair Ali Nabili, P.Eng.

The following members were elected to serve in the executive for 2013-2014, at the annual general meeting, held at Thornhill Community Centre on March 19, 2013:

- ⊙ Souheila Bardakji, P.Eng.
- ⊙ Maziyar Bolour, P.Eng.
- ⊙ William Goodings, P.Eng.
- ⊙ Mohammed Horriyat, P.Eng.
- ⊙ Mehrangiz Kafi, P.Eng.
- ⊙ Aung Ko Ko Kyaw, EIT
- ⊙ Nanda Lwin, P.Eng.
- ⊙ Vimbai Munyukwi, P.Eng.
- ⊙ Ali Nabili, P.Eng.
- ⊙ Min Pan, EIT
- ⊙ John Penaranda, P.Eng.
- ⊙ Rajiv Srivastava, P.Eng.
- ⊙ Noubar Takessian, P.Eng., FEC

**UPDATE** Officers and committee chairs for the 2013-2014 season were chosen at the April 9, 2013, executive meeting:

**Chair:** Maziyar Bolour, **Vice Chair:** Rajiv Srivastava, **Past Chair:** Nanda Lwin, **Treasurer:** Mehrangiz Kafi, **Secretary:** Maliheh Farahnak, **Certificate Presentation/Annual General Meeting:** Souheila Bardakji, **Government Liaison:** Rajiv Srivastava, **Education:** William Goodings and John Penaranda, **Programs:** Aung Ko Ko Kyaw, **Engineering Internship:** Min Pan, **Publications:** (vacant), **Electronic Media:** Mohammad Horriyat; **Awards:** Ali Nabili