

Message from the Chair



Outgoing Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, passes the gavel to incoming Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng., at the March 15th executive meeting at the Pleasant View Library.

I am very pleased to address you as the new Chair of the Willowdale/Thornhill Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Chapter.

Last March, I was very honoured to have been acclaimed as the new Chair and to lead the chapter into its 50th year of service. We have so much to be proud of. Geographically, Willowdale/Thornhill is home to many local landmarks: downtown North York, Seneca College's Newnham Campus, the golf and country clubs in Thornhill, four major shopping malls, the Sheppard subway line, and even the head offices of both the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers and PEO at Sheppard and Yonge.

It is also home to more than 4,000 professional engineers and engineering interns, whose daily work spans the gamut of engineering disciplines and plays a role in the betterment of Canadian society. Whether it's the water that comes out of your tap, the skyscrapers that grace our city skylines, medical technology that saves human life, or the electronic gadgets that have improved 21st-century living, the professional engi-

neers of our community have made significant contributions to our daily lives.

The Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter has had an excellent reputation for being a leader among PEO's 36 chapters. We have had an extremely eventful and successful six years under the leadership of Noubar Takessian, P.Eng., and Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, and I have every reason to feel optimistic about the months ahead. I particularly want to thank and pay homage to my predecessor Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, for his guidance, leadership, and undying passion and commitment to the profession these past two years. Willowdale/Thornhill has flourished under his leadership and I am grateful that I inherit the chapter in excellent shape.

Now, as Chair, I plan to continue this tradition. When I took office on March 15th, my priorities were clear and straightforward:

- Attract more volunteers through an ambitious campaign of ads and notices

- Improve the chapter's online presence through Facebook, Twitter, and an enhanced website
- Revamp *The Chronicle* newsletter
- Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Willowdale/Thornhill
- Revamp our seminars and workshops to reflect the changing engineering marketplace
- Reach out to schools in the area – high schools, and Seneca College

- Continue efforts to reach out to engineering interns and new Canadians

I am looking forward to the months ahead and I invite you to visit our website on a regular basis. And as always, please do not hesitate to contact me at chair@wtpeo.org if you have suggestions or concerns.

Nanda Lwin, P.Eng.
Chair, Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter



Six Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter members received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award on March 31st in Richmond Hill. With Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng. (centre), at the ceremony are recipients Mohinder Grover, P.Eng. (left), and James Finbar Lucey, P.Eng. (right).

THE CHRONICLE

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Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter Executive

Chair: Nanda Lwin, **Vice Chair:** Vimbai Munyai, **Past Chair:** Changiz Sadr, **Treasurer:** Mehrangiz Kafi, **Secretary:** Souheila Bardakji, **Certificate Presentations:** Gary Marcarian, **Government Liaison:** Rajiv Srivastava, **Education:** Maziyar Bolour, **Programs:** Bogdan Damjanovic, **Engineering Interns:** Mohammad Abachi, **Publications:** Ariel Agor, **Electronic Media:** 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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Lwin Becomes Chair of Willowdale/Thornhill

By Nelson Mackenzie



Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng.

The Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter has a new Chair. Nanda Lwin, P.Eng., was acclaimed at the organization's board meeting on March 15, 2011, succeeding Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, who was Chair since 2009 and now sits as the chapter's Past Chair.

"I am honoured and privileged to have this opportunity to lead Willowdale/Thornhill into its 50th year," Lwin said. "I am deeply touched and humbled by those who gave me their support, trust and confidence. My goal as Chair is to build on the foundation laid out by my predecessors while forging a new vision for our chapter."

A licence holder with Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) since May 2003, Lwin previously held the position of Vice Chair and Programs Committee Chair. Lwin began his engineering career with a Mississauga-based construction firm in the mid 1990s. He has held positions at NCK Engineering, and Moon-Matz Ltd., and is currently a civil engineering professor at Seneca College. Lwin holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Toronto and a master's degree in engineering and public policy from McMaster University in Hamilton. Lwin has authored several books on popular music and once wrote a weekly newspaper and online column on music.

Nelson Mackenzie is a journalist based in Toronto.

The New Chair at a Glance Nanda Lwin, P.Eng.

Personal: Born on August 31, 1971 in London, Ontario. Raised in Scarborough and Mississauga. Now lives in Willowdale. Southeast Asian ancestry.

Employment: At present a civil engineering professor at Seneca College in Toronto. Formerly a structural engineer at NCK Engineering, working on the CN Tower rehabilitation program and other projects. Also worked as a transportation planner, a journalist and author. Lectured at Humber College in Toronto.

Education: Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, University of Toronto. Master's degree in engineering and public policy, McMaster University, Hamilton.

PEO involvement: Member and professional engineering licence holder since May 2003. Vice Chair, Willowdale-Thornhill, 2010-2011. Member of various Willowdale-Thornhill committees, including Government Liaison, Programs, and Publications. Newsletter editor, 2005-2011. Programs Chair, 2010-2011. Government Liaison Chair, 2005-2008. Publications Chair, 2005-2011. Willowdale/Thornhill certificate of appreciation, 2011.

Other engineering-related memberships: Ontario Society of Professional Engineers. Former member of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering.

Other facts: Speaks English and some French. Member of the Ruskin Literary and Debating Society, Osteoporosis Society of Canada, Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. Voting member for the Juno Awards. Author of several books on popular music. Wrote ChartTalk, an Internet and newspaper column on music charts. Performed stand-up comedy. Hobbies include film, music, and politics. His father is a professional engineer.

Sadr Inducted Into Order of Honour at PEO Ceremony



Past Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, was inducted into the prestigious Order of Honour on May 6th.

Past Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC, was formally introduced as a member of the prestigious Order of Honour at a Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) ceremony in Ottawa on May 6th.

"Not only am I very happy to have received this award and so thankful to my PEO colleagues who nominated me, I am also so proud as an Iranian-Canadian engineer to be the second Iranian in the history of PEO to have received this award," said Sadr.

First licensed as a professional engineer in Ontario in 1999, Sadr has been an influential member of the Willowdale-Thornhill PEO Chapter. Sadr joined the chapter executive in 2000, and participated in various chapter committees, including Government Liaison, Publications, and Programs.

He served as Vice-Chair from 2005 to 2009, and as Chair from 2009 to 2011. Under his leadership, the chapter underwent tremendous growth, including the development of a scholarship program for students pursuing engineering, networking events for engineer-

ing interns and the staging of two chapter events each month on average.

Sadr has also served on several PEO committees, including the Experience Requirements Committee since 2003, the Emerging Disciplines Task Force since 2008 and the Advisory Committee on Volunteers subcommittee for the past year.

Leading the charge for a more inclusive profession, Sadr has volunteered as a mentor to settlement agencies and associations to assist new Canadians in adapting to their new country. These efforts have increased awareness among international engineering graduates of PEO and the licensure process. In recognition for his contribution, he received two Ontario Volunteer Service Awards in 2009.

Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter executives lined up to praise Sadr. "Everybody who has worked with Changiz would acknowledge that he is always supporting and endorsing individuals in the profession. Due to his earnest contribution, I am really happy to see he obtained what he deserved," said Awards Committee Chair Ali Nabili, P.Eng., in a written statement.

"Changiz has earned a well-deserved reputation throughout Willowdale/Thornhill and throughout PEO as an enthusiastic and passionate advocate for the engineering profession. I am pleased to have the opportunity to know him and I am grateful to have him as a colleague," said Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng.

According to the PEO website, the order is an honorary society, recognizing professional engineers who have "rendered conspicuous service to the engineering profession, normally through the association." The website goes on to say that "candidates should have made a substantial contribution to the operation of the profession, its professional status, or one of the many specialized functions of the professional association."

Past Chair Sadr Reflects on His Two Terms in Office



My time as Chair of the Willowdale/Thornhill Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Chapter for two terms has come to an end, and I am now the Past Chair. It was short, yet productive and very successful.

The first term in 2009, was mostly a year of restructuring and planning, and the second year, 2010, was a year of implementing and delivering those plans. One of the highlights of my first year was to amend the chapter by-laws to limit the officer positions to two consecutive terms (in other words, two years). I presented that change, along with a couple of others, at the annual general meeting in March 2010 and had them approved.

The reason for that specific modification was to introduce succession planning for the officers and to get younger volunteers on the board and have them involved in chapter governance. Having now stepped down after two terms, I was the first chapter Chair to implement this plan. Starting with the board meeting of March 15, 2011, Nanda Lwin has now taken over as the new Chair to take control of the steering wheel of the Willowdale/Thornhill Chapter ship.

Within these past two years, mostly in 2010, we delivered several different events and

programs that were unprecedented in the history of the chapter, such as a mentoring program, engineering intern networking, a summer picnic, and a bridge competition, to name just a few. We also presented four scholarships of \$500 value each, to four outstanding Grade 12 students who were accepted to engineering programs in Canada. This scholarship program is not new. However, after an absence of a few years, it was resumed last year, and we awarded four students, the most we have ever awarded at one ceremony.

I would also like to mention the enhancements made to the chapter's website, such as adding the members' feedback section, chapter committees list and mandates, and photo galleries for different events. Moreover, we are now publishing four newsletters a year.

Also during this period, I ran as a candidate for the East Central Regional Councillor position in the 2011 PEO elections, the results of which have already been announced. I did not win the election, but regardless of the outcome, I am very proud of the results and grateful to all those who voted. I was able to get over 40 per cent of the total votes compared to 50 percent for my opponent. As some of you know, this election was my first council candidacy, while my opponent was the incumbent councillor who was re-elected after three terms, two of which were consecutive.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who voted for me and supported me with their positive, encouraging, and constructive comments and feedback during my terms as Chair.

I would also like to give a very special thanks to all the members who contributed their time and energy as board members during this time, and believed in me to represent them and accepted me to be a player in their team. I was lucky to have the best

team of volunteers to work with. Here, I would like to recognise and appreciate each and every one of them by name and say THANK YOU:

Mohammad Abachi | Mohammadreza Afshin | Ariel Agor | Brenda Bao | Souheila Bardakji | Bouzar Bassij | Mazyar Bolour | Michael Chan | Arun Chopra | Carey Cox | Bogdan Damjanovic | Mark Franklin | Mark Friedberg | Mohammad Horriyat | Mehrangiz Kafi | Oleg Kornienko | Nanda Lwin | Gary Marcarian | Ramona Mirtorabi | Mohsen Monfared | Miriam Mozes | Vimbai Munyaiki | Ali Nabili | Alex Osgouei | Hamid Tabrizi | Noubar

Takessian | Miriam Vasen | Adethya Vuppal

My time as chapter Chair has ended, but I hope to be able to serve you as I have in the past, and look forward to your continued support and cooperation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss any matters further.

Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC
Past Chair
Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter
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Souheila Bardakji, P.Eng. (left), and Vimbai Munyaiki, P.Eng. (right), are all smiles at the March 15th Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter meeting that saw them acclaimed as Secretary and Vice Chair, respectively.

First Few Months of 2011 a Busy Time for Programs in Willowdale/Thornhill

By Bogdan Damjanovic, P.Eng.



Seneca College Professor Sunita Kossta speaks to the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter about work-life balance on March 29th.

We have had an excellent start to the programs agenda at the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter. Five seminars have been organized from March, when the new executive took office, to early June. We will be announcing several plant tours, a summer picnic, as well as additional lectures. Your suggestions and feedback for the chapter programs are welcomed! Please feel free to contact me, the Programs Committee Chair, at bogdan.damjanovic@expresspros.com.

Here's a summary of the high calibre activities we have hosted this year:

Date: March 29, 2011

Speaker: Sunita Kossta, Sunita Kossta Consulting

Title: A Balancing Act: Work-Life Balance for the Busy Engineer

Seneca Professor Sunita Kossta gave an exciting talk on the aspects of work-life balance: • What is work-life balance? How do you know when you've got it? • How do you know when you don't? • How to achieve balance! • Where do you begin? • Flexibility

without jeopardizing your career • Consequences of living in imbalance.

Date: April 4, 2011

Speaker: B. Whitfield, Express Employment Professionals

Title: Managing Conflict and Change to Enhance Morale and Team Building

This event about leadership was designed to assist supervisors at all management levels. All professional relationships experience some type of conflict. This is normal, natural and sometimes even necessary for growth and development. This seminar discussed the following: myths and truths of conflict, the need to change your "old thinkers," sources of organizational conflict and successful ways to overcome them, seven steps to conflict resolution and examples of the successes of each step, best team building practices used by today's most successful companies, the leader's role in team management, change management, management's role during the communication and implementation process, traits of the problem employee, and successful ways of handling the problem employee.

Date: April 27, 2011

Speaker: Min Eng, University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies

Title: How to Successfully Identify and Manage Crucial Conversations in the Workplace

A seminar on how to navigate through those important and yet sometimes difficult conversations at work. In this interactive session participants practised "reading between the lines" when it comes to communication with clients, managers, colleagues, and other crucial stakeholders in your professional networks, and discover what they expect of you. The session helped participants identify and build skills to establish productive professional relationships.

Date: May 18, 2011

Speaker: Express Employment Professionals

Section 1 Title: Leading in the New Business Reality

Presented by Ken Blanchard, author, speaker and business consultant, known as one of the most insightful, powerful, and kind individuals in business today. Blanchard discussed the challenges that leaders face in keeping people focused, productive, and motivated to create an aligned organization that can move nimbly yet boldly toward the future.

Section 2 Title: Victory Through Teamwork and Leadership

Presented by Peyton Manning, celebrated football player who led the Indianapolis Colts to victory in Super Bowl XLI. Manning shared some of the insights he has learned over the years about leadership, teamwork, and success – both on and off the football field.

Section 3 Title: Attitude: The Winning Edge

Presented by Walter Bond, business expert, broadcaster, and former professional athlete who played for the Utah Jazz, Detroit Pis-

tons, and Dallas Mavericks. Mr. Bond discussed how important attitude can really be to an organization. He showed how to eliminate the "stinking thinking" that prevents people from perceiving and using every situation to their advantage and from working to their full potential.

Date: June 1, 2011

Speaker: Dr. Arsalan Mohajer, Ph.D., D.I.C., P.Geo.

Title: Nuclear Site Safety and Seismic Design

A two-hour seminar, presented by Dr. Arsalan Mohajer, a Director with RedR Canada. The presentation reviewed the Japanese nuclear sites with respect to the geostructural framework of seismically active faults and moving crustal plates. Design parameters for safe shutdown were also discussed. A comparison with European and U.S. nuclear facilities was made as well. New research findings on nuclear site safety and seismic design in Ontario were discussed. Future disaster prevention and Canadian response criteria were discussed.



University of Toronto instructor Min Eng (right) wowed the crowd at Fairview Library on April 27th with a seminar on difficult conversations in the workplace. Here she is speaking with Programs Committee Chair Bogdan Damjanovic, P.Eng. (left).



Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng. (left), congratulates Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng. (right), on receiving the Ontario Volunteer Service Award in Richmond Hill on May 7th. Karakatsanis was elected President-elect of Engineers Canada on May 27th.

Willowdale/Thornhill's Karakatsanis Elected President-elect of Engineers Canada

The list of credentials for Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng., continues to grow. The former Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) President and Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter member was elected President-elect of Engineers Canada at the organization's annual general meeting in Halifax on May 27th. Brent Smith, P.Eng., of New Brunswick was formally installed as President and Zaki Ghavitian, ing., of Quebec became the Past President. Karakatsanis will serve as President-elect for a year before becoming President at the annual general meeting, which is slated to be held on May 26, 2012 in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

"I am confident that Catherine Karakatsanis will be an effective leader for all Canadian professional engineers. It is indeed an honour to have the future President of a significant organization like Engineers Canada right here in our chapter. She's a fellow Willowdalian and indeed a distinguished member of ours. I wish her and her executive the

very best," said Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng.

Karakatsanis was elected President of PEO in May 2009, becoming the fourth woman to lead the organization. She was also President of the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) and is the Executive Vice-President at Morrison Hershfield, a consulting engineering firm in Willowdale.

She was one of six Willowdale/Thornhill PEO members who were awarded the Ontario Volunteer Service Award by the provincial government at a ceremony in Richmond Hill on May 7th. Karakatsanis is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario in London, with a master's degree in engineering science.

Engineers Canada is the national organization of professional engineers, encompassing all 12 provincial and territorial professional engineering regulatory bodies, including PEO.

Parting Shots...



Willowdale/Thornhill PEO executives attend the Liberal party nomination meeting of Willowdale MPP David Zimmer, on March 30th at Salvation Army Church in Willowdale. From left to right: Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng., Zimmer, Programs Committee Chair Bogdan Damjanovic, P.Eng., then-Willowdale MP Martha Hall Findlay, and Past Chair Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC.

Six members of the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter earned the Ontario Volunteer Service Award on March 31st at the Premier Ballroom & Convention Centre in Richmond Hill. They were **George Apostol, P.Eng., Mohinder S. Grover, P.Eng., Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng., James Finbar Lucey, P.Eng., Elmer A. Mittelstaedt, P.Eng., and Anthony C. Tam, P.Eng.**

Three members of the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter were present on March 30th at the Salvation Army Church when Willowdale MPP **David Zimmer** was nominated as the Liberal party's candidate for the upcoming provincial election. Past Chair **Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC**, Programs Committee Chair **Bogdan Damjanovic, P.Eng.**, and Chair **Nanda Lwin, P.Eng.**, attended the nomination meeting.

The next certificate presentation for newly-minted professional engineers is expected in the fall, reports Certificate Presentations Committee Chair **Gary Marcarian, P.Eng.**

Be part of the fun.

Log onto www.wtpeo.org and find out how you can volunteer with the **Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter**.