

Environment. Committee Report at WTPEO Annual General Meeting, Feb 25, 2015

Purpose:

Here is the Purpose of the WTPEO Environment Committee, as agreed by the WTPEO Executive:

- 1) In line with the Definition of Engineering Practice, in the Professional Engineers Act, to encourage Chapter members to promote the safeguarding of the environment as a fundamental feature of engineering practice.
- 2) To promote environmental awareness to the public.

To this purpose, the Environment Committee organized some successful events, during the past year. These events could not have happened, without the excellent organizational work of the Environment Committee members.

In May, about 40 Chapter members visited the Portlands Energy Centre, at the east end of the Toronto Waterfront. Portlands is a natural gas-fired electricity generating station, supplying power to Ontario's electricity grid.

In November, we discussed a modern phenomenon which affects all major engineering projects: NIMBY ("Not In My Back Yard") Two expert speakers from the consulting community gave us some hope that engineers can reach agreement with the public over planning of major projects. This seminar was presented by our Chapter jointly with OSPE, OCEPP and the Toronto Chapter of IEEE, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Our January seminar was "The Don River, on the Eve of the 2015 Pan American Games." Three experts presented the good news and the bad news about the Don River, which flows about 300 metres from the Athlete's Village for the Pan Am Games. Although the Don River suffers from poor water quality, the natural environment along the banks has improved enormously since the 1970's. Major projects in the next 25 years will improve the water quality and eliminate the flooding risk at the mouth of the Don, opening up the Donlands to restoration and environmentally planned development.

Tonight's presentation, Mining and the Environment, is also presented to you by the Environment Committee.

In other work, the Environment Committee provided much of the administrative work for the March 1st Transit Symposium, at George Brown College, which was a major success, attracting the Chair of the TTC and a nucleus of Toronto transit planning experts.

In the coming year, we will be planning other seminars and field trips. Some suggested topics are:

Enwave District Heating and Cooling System

Energy Efficient Large Buildings in Toronto

Climate Change Update

Wind Energy, Pro and Con

and other topics.

In general, we are looking for ideas on how market our events, in order to increase the audiences for these events.

If you are interested in joining the Environment Committee, please see me or one of the Environment Committee members, or email us through the Chapter email address.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the excellent administrative work of the following members of the Environment Committee in making our events a success:

Nigel Fung

Major Sugic

Yuan Chun Mei

Arezo Karimian

Tiffany Persaud

Tom Markowitz, P.Eng.

WTPEO Environment Committee Chair