

ENGINEERING* on the Hill

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REPORTING ON ISSUES ON PARLIAMENT HILL OF INTEREST TO THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION

BGE Outreach – Out of the Halls of Parliament and Into Local Communities

On Saturday, February 28, 2009, the 6th Annual Design Challenge Bridge Building Competition was held in conjunction with Ontario's National Engineering Month. Mervat Rashwan, chair of the Design Challenge Event and **Bridging Government and Engineers** volunteer for the federal riding of Richmond Hill (Ontario) said that the event was well attended with over 300 community participants, including Member of Parliament, Honourable Bryon Wilfert.

The annual activity was held at Academie de la Moraine School, where 2 bridge design competitions were held simultaneously; one using KNEX system, the other using LEGO blocks.

"Every year, we invite Honourable Bryon Wilfert, the member of Parliament for Richmond Hill, to participate at this enjoyable community event. He hands out special government certificates to all participants and volunteers", mentioned Ms. Rashwan.

"This is a fun and exciting local event," said parliamentarian Hon. Bryon Wilfert. "The kids develop the most innovative and interesting bridge designs. Every year I am excited to witness what these young potential engineers will come up with. I am never disappointed. This event brings together youth, families, and other locally elected representatives to celebrate design ingenuity and excellence."

His Worship David Barrow, mayor of Richmond Hill and Mrs. Harris, chair of the Central Library, also participated and brought souvenirs for participants. Richmond Hill's provincial member of Parliament, Reza Moridi, and Robert Goodings, past-president of Profession Engineers Ontario and a member of the Engineers Canada Board of Directors, built and provided the testing machine for the event.

"The Bridging Government and Engineers Program can be what you make it. Mr. Wilfert was happy to participate at this local engineering event, in celebration of National Engineering Month." said Ms. Rashwan. "I try to consider my member of Parliament's role and involvement in many events throughout our local area. He has a keen interest in the engineering profession and the value it brings to Canadians."



From top right: His Worship David Barrow, Mayor of Richmond Hill, Mervat Rashwan, BGE volunteer and chair of the Design Challenge, Hon. Bryon Wilfert, member of Parliament for Richmond Hill, and Robert Goodings, P.Eng., and past-president of PEO, celebrating the design contestants.



Mervat Rashwan, BGE volunteer and Hon. Bryon Wilfert, member of Parliament for Richmond Hill, Ontario

BGE Summertime Challenge! Meet your MP and win an Ipod!

From June 12 through September 18, 2009, Engineers Canada is holding a cross country challenge to all its Bridging Government and Engineers program volunteers to get out there and meet with their federally elected members of Parliament.

The summer parliamentary recess offers a perfect opportunity for the BGE volunteers to take advantage of the time that members of Parliament spend back home in their riding offices and communities. This contest is open to current Bridging volunteers, who have followed the training sessions provided throughout the country, regardless of whether or not they have previously met with their MP.



What you have to do:

- 1- Contact your MP (or MP's office) to arrange a meeting between the dates of June 12 and September 18, 2009. (refer to your Bridging Tool Box for template letters and recommended procedures on how best to secure a date and time).
- 2- Identify which priority issue you wish to discuss and prepare accordingly (remember: Engineers Canada can assist you with providing an MP bio, the leave behind kit for your MP, and other suitable additional information to assist you with your meeting).
- 3- Go meet with your MP.
- 4- Fill out the Meeting Report Form contained in your Bridging Tool Box, and send it back to Laurèl Craib, manager of Government Relations at Engineers Canada at laurel.craib@engineerscanada.ca
- 5- On September 21, 2009, the total numbers of meetings held in each province will be tallied and made available to all participants. The province with the most recorded meetings (tallied from submitted meeting report forms) will be declared the official winner of the contest, and the Bridging volunteers of that province or territory who met with their MP, and submitted their Meeting Report form will win an Ipod Shuffle.
- 6- The winning province or territory will be determined by the ratio of the total number of meetings held relative to the total number of federal MP's in that jurisdiction (i.e. 9 Saskatchewan Bridging volunteers submit meeting report forms out of a total of 14 federal ridings, whereas 27 Ontario Bridging volunteers submit meeting request forms, out of a total of 106 federal ridings. Saskatchewan would be the winning province with 64 percent coverage).



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