

Public Awareness Committee

John Rooney (Chair)
Trevor Bowden
James Betke
Jonathan Epp
Renee-Luce Simard

Alan Bailes, P. Geo. left the committee last June after commencing his private geoscience practice. I would like to thank Alan very much for his efforts and opinions during his time with the committee. Renee-Luce Simard is the other geoscientist on the committee; however she has been very busy as new Mother of late and unable to attend our meetings. We look forward to her return but are also interested in recruiting another geoscientist to replace Alan on the committee. The committee has also seen the departure of Marc Ducharme and Robyn Taylor, both of whom are unable to continue due to work commitments. Thanks to both Robyn and Marc for their efforts on the committee as well. We are seeking new engineering committee members to fill these vacancies. Committee members need not live in Winnipeg as they can attend the meetings by phone. In fact, I would like to see as diverse a committee as possible: people from across the province, women and men, P.Eng.s, P.Geo.s, EITs or GITs, people in industry, in private practice, in government, etc. Diversity in the committee improves representation, contributes varying points of view and improves our reach.

The APEGM supported the 2008 Manitoba Schools Science Symposium (MSSS) with prizes for engineering and geoscience related projects. These awards are among the many Special Awards that various associations and individuals contribute to the MSSS each year over and above the prizes that the MSSS itself hands out. The APEGM has consistently been one of the larger contributors of prizes through the years and the kids are catching on to this! We supply judges each year to decide who will get these special awards. In addition, there are many of our members who volunteer to judge on behalf of the MSSS itself. This year it was Tim Corkery who handed out the awards at the final ceremony.

The Canada Wide Science Fair is the top science fair in Canada. This is where winners from the MSSS go to compete with the best projects from other Provinces. In 2009 the CWSF is being held in Winnipeg! We expect to support the CWSF with volunteers at minimum. They will need a lot of volunteers, so if you are at all interested, please contact the office and let us know.

The 2008 student dinner was presented as an opportunity for students in Engineering or Geoscience to meet and talk with professionals, and also as a chance for prospective employers to meet prospective employers. The evening

was sold out and the event met with enthusiastic reviews from those involved. In 2008 we extended a special invitation to Brandon University's Geology students so that they too could participate. The committee will ensure that this event proceeds again in 2009.

Kildonan Place Mall in Winnipeg was the venue chosen for Provincial Engineering and Geoscience Week in 2008. The mall management received us enthusiastically and we had a lot of traffic from interested people. We expect to return to Kildonan Place for PEGW 2009. In addition to a physical presence at Kildonan Place, we were able to reach the readership of the Winnipeg Free Press (estimated circulation of 122,000) with a 16 page supplement on Engineering and Geoscience. The supplement was supported with advertising from the Engineering and Geoscience community and was very well received. We expect to sponsor a supplement this year as well. Please contact members of the PAC or the APEGM office if you have ideas for articles for this year's (2009) supplement.

An independent group of interested P.Eng.s, EITs and others undertook to present an activity at the Rotary Careers Symposium in Winnipeg to raise the profile of Engineering. During the lunch break this group oversaw a competition among teams of students formed from the symposium attendees. The competition required the teams to build structures to support weight at a minimum height above the ground. Materials were limited to those provided in a kit to each team. The competition was fierce, and the audience large and enthusiastic. Everyone learned about what it is like to be an engineer, in a fun and interactive environment. The PAC did nothing more than provide some brochures and give-aways. This is the kind of spirit I would love to see among our members everywhere in Manitoba.