

PEO Willowdale/Thornhill Chapter Newsletter # 2

Annual General Body Meeting 2024

A Year in Review: Celebrating Achievements and Looking Ahead

On **March 12, 2025**, the Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Willowdale/Thornhill Chapter held its **AGM** at the Hotel **Courtyard in Markham**. The event brought together members, volunteers, and esteemed guests to reflect on the past year's accomplishments and outline plans for the future. Below is a summary of the key highlights from the meeting.

Meeting Agenda Recap

The evening began with a warm welcome and networking session, followed by a structured agenda that included:

- **Opening Remarks and Introductions** by AGM & LPC Committee Chair **Debasis Dey, P.Eng.**
- **Approval of the 2025 Agenda and 2024 AGM Minutes**
- **Committee Chairs' Reports** showcasing the chapters activities and achievements
- **Introductions by Candidates** for the 2025-2026 Executive Board
- **Election Process Explanation**
- **Voting and Announcement of the 2025 Candidates**

The event concluded with networking and adjournment at 9:00 PM.

Executive Board Members 2024-2025

The chapter is led by a dedicated team of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to advance the engineering profession and support our community. A special thank you to the **2024-2025 Executive Board Members:**

- **Amit Gupta, P.Eng.** – Chair
 - **Mitch Lipton, P.Eng.** – Vice Chair
 - **Alan Lam, P.Eng., PMP** – Treasurer
 - **Karen Penaranda, EIT** – Secretary & Education
 - **Debasis Dey, P.Eng.** – AGM & LPC
 - **Mohinder Grover, Ph.D., P.Eng., FEC** – Awards
 - **Bo Dang, P.Eng.** – EIT, LAP
 - **Ekaterina (Kate) Shilina, EIT** – Electronic Media
 - **Farzaneh Omrani, P.Eng.** – Government Liaison Program (GLP)
 - **Nabil Ghariani, P.Eng.** – Programs
 - **Atena Mahiny, P.Eng.** – Networking
 - **Joe D' Souza, P.Eng.** – Publications
 - **John Penaranda, P.Eng., FEC** – Past Chair
 - **Noubar Takessian, P.Eng., FEC** – Executive
 - **Mammad Horriyat, P.Eng., FEC** – Executive
 - **Souheila Bardakji, Ph.D., P.Eng., FEC** – Executive
 - **Ayad Khalid** – Executive
 - **Rony Mathew** – Executive
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Committee Highlights

AGM & LPC Committee (Debasis Dey, P.Eng.)

- Organized two successful **Licensing Professional Ceremonies (LPC)** in 2024 at the Thornhill Club.
- **Guest of Honor:** MPP Vincent Ke, attended both events and expressed his appreciation for the chapter' s work.
- Total attendees: **88 guests (Event I)** and **110 guests (Event II)**.

Awards Committee (Mohinder Grover, P.Eng.)

- Recognized outstanding contributions by chapter members, including:
 - **Debasis Dey, P.Eng.** – 5-year service pin
 - **Karen Penaranda, EIT** – Exceptional contribution to the chapter
 - **Mitch Lipton, P.Eng.** – Leadership as 2023-2024 Chapter Chair

Publications Committee (Joe D' Souza, P.Eng.)

- Published the first article for FY2024-25, covering the **November 2024 Certification Program Ceremony**.
- Future plans include publishing **one article per quarter**, focusing on events like **NEM ' 25, GLP Events, Seminars**, and the **Summer BBQ**.

Education Committee (Karen Penaranda, EIT)

- Hosted **Engineering & Arts Activities for Kids** in August 2024.
- Awarded **\$1,500 in scholarships** to three high-school students pursuing engineering.
- Sponsored **11 members' daughters** for the **Camp Engies 2-day camp** in June 2024.

Electronic Media Committee (Ekaterina Shilina, EIT)

- Maintained and updated the chapter website, ensuring seamless communication with members.
- Provided technical support for **Zoom meetings** and distributed event notifications via **Campaigner**.

Government Liaison Program (Farzaneh Omrani, P.Eng.)

- Met with **MPP Vincent Ke** in October 2024 and received an appreciation letter for the chapter' s efforts.
- Attended the **PEO Volunteer Symposium** on November 30, 2024.

Programs Committee (Nabil Ghariani, P.Eng.)

- Hosted engaging seminars on topics like **AI for Small Business, New Battery Technology**, and **Fire Safety**.
- Upcoming seminar: **New Ontario Building Code and its Impact on Fire and Life Safety Systems**.

Networking Committee (Atena Mahiny, P.Eng.)

- Organized successful networking events at **Dave & Buster' s** and a **Bowling Night**, with over **100 attendees** combined.

Treasurers Report (Alan Lam, P.Eng.)

- Managed chapter finances, ensuring transparency and accountability.
 - **2024 Actual Spend:** \$53,442.77
 - **2025 Approved Budget:** \$63,850.00
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2025-2026 Slate of Candidates

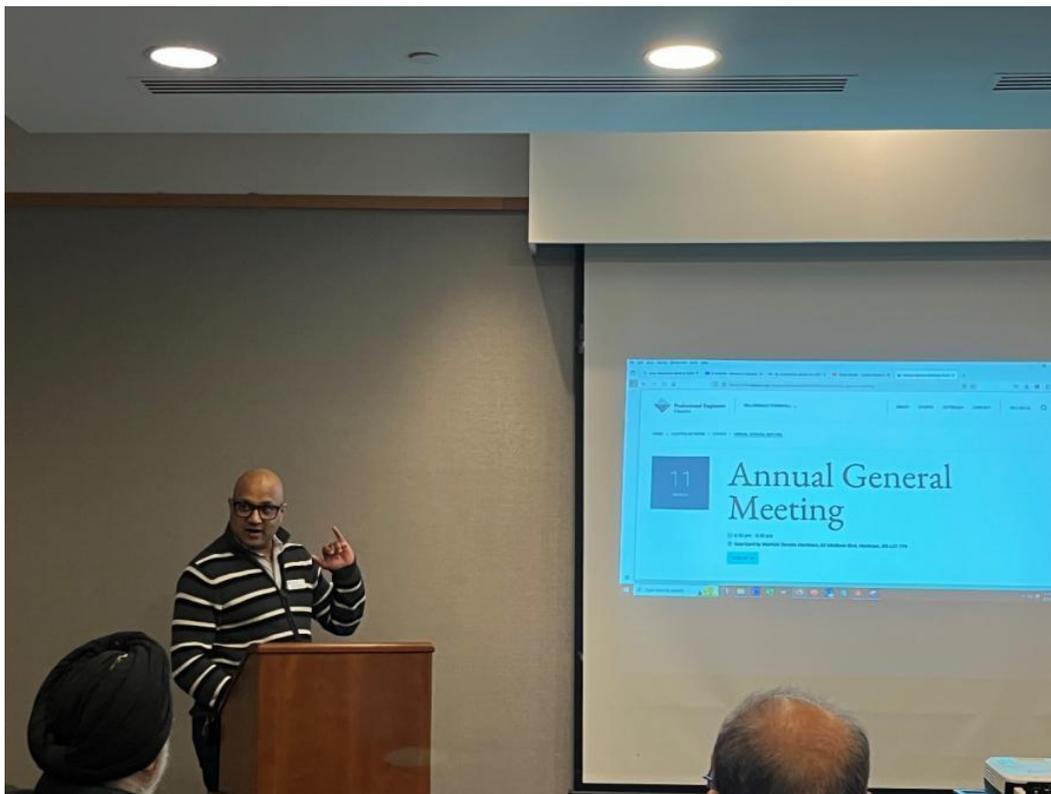
The chapter is excited to welcome new candidates for the upcoming term. The **2025-2026 Slate of Candidates** includes:

1. **Amit Gupta, P.Eng.**
 2. **Alan Lam, P.Eng.**
 3. **Mohinder Grover, P.Eng.**
 4. **Karen Penaranda Valdivia, EIT**
 5. **Debasis Dey, P.Eng.**
 6. **Ekaterina Shilina, EIT(R)**
 7. **Nabil Ghariani, P.Eng.**
 8. **Farzaneh Omrani, P.Eng.(R)**
 9. **Bo Dang, P.Eng.**
 10. **John Penaranda, P.Eng.**
 11. **Noubar Takessian, P.Eng.**
 12. **Mohammad Horriyat, P.Eng.**
 13. **Joe D' Souza, P.Eng.**
 14. **Souheila Bardakji**
 15. **Shayan Sepiani, P.Eng.**
 16. **Diannan Zhang, EIT**
 17. **Ronny Mathew, EIT**
 18. **Ayad Khalid, P.Eng.**
 19. **Atena Mahiny, P.Eng.**
 20. **Man Lu, EIT**
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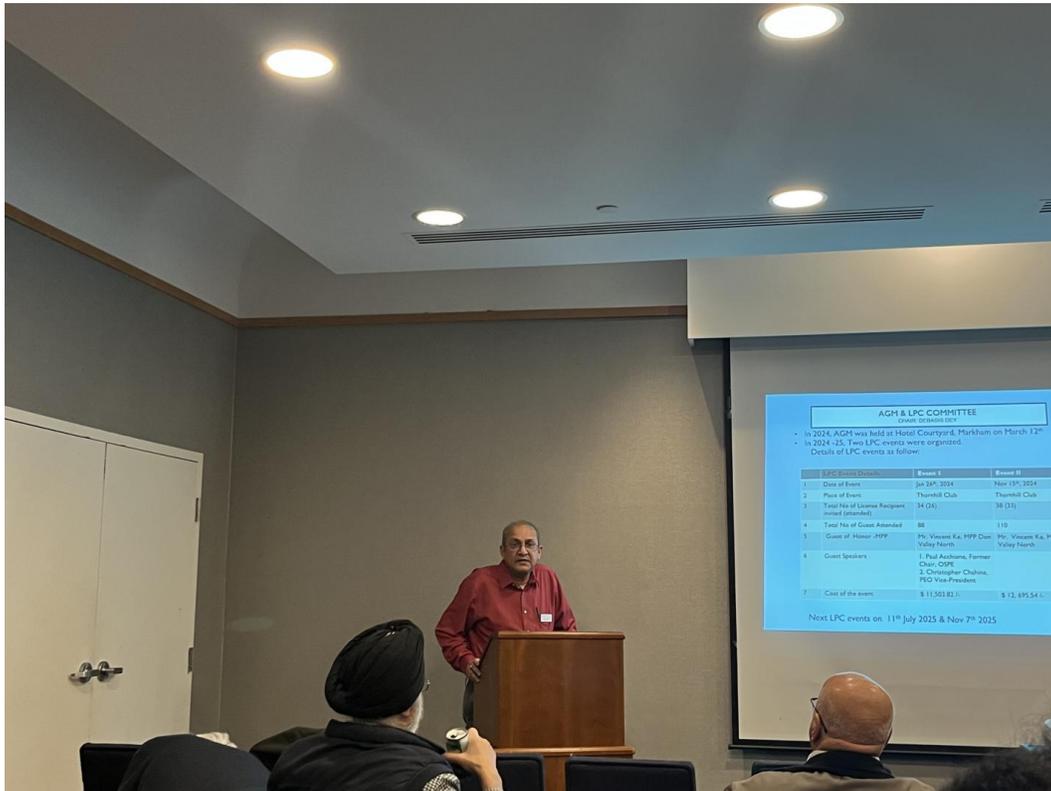
Looking Ahead

The **new chapter executive** will meet on **April 8, 2025**, to nominate and elect officers for the 2025-2026 term. We are excited to continue our mission of promoting engineering excellence and serving our community.

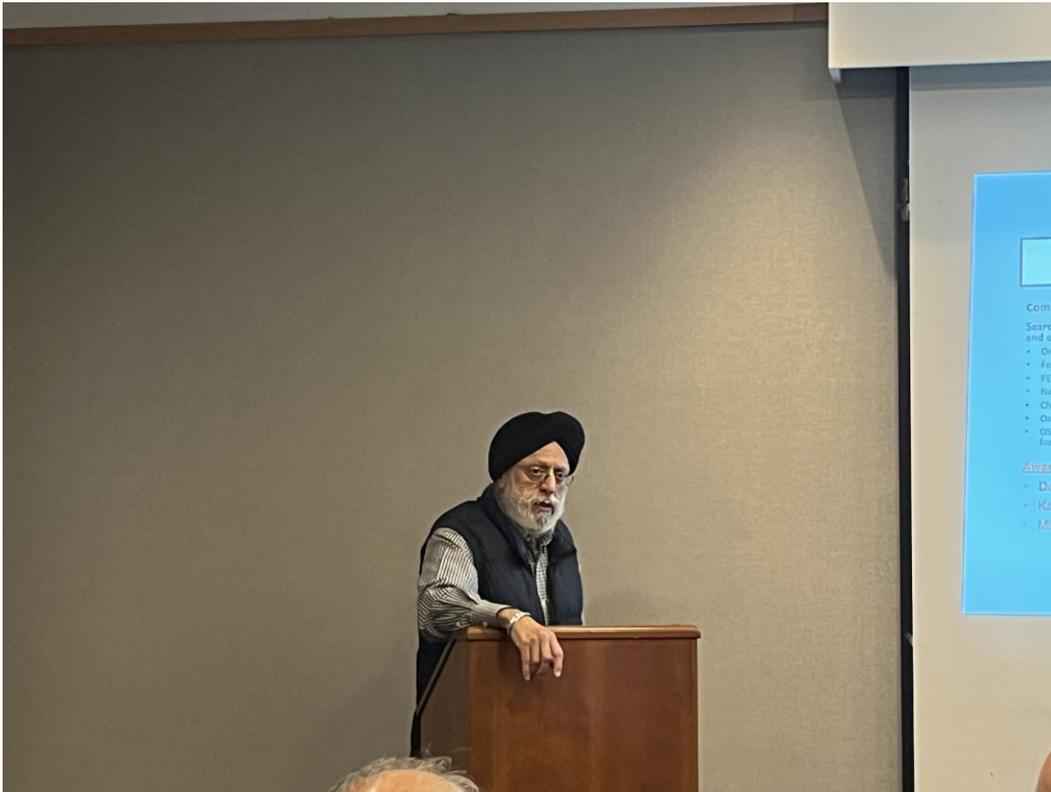
Photo Gallery



Picture 1 CHAPTER CHAIR AMIT GUPTA P. Eng



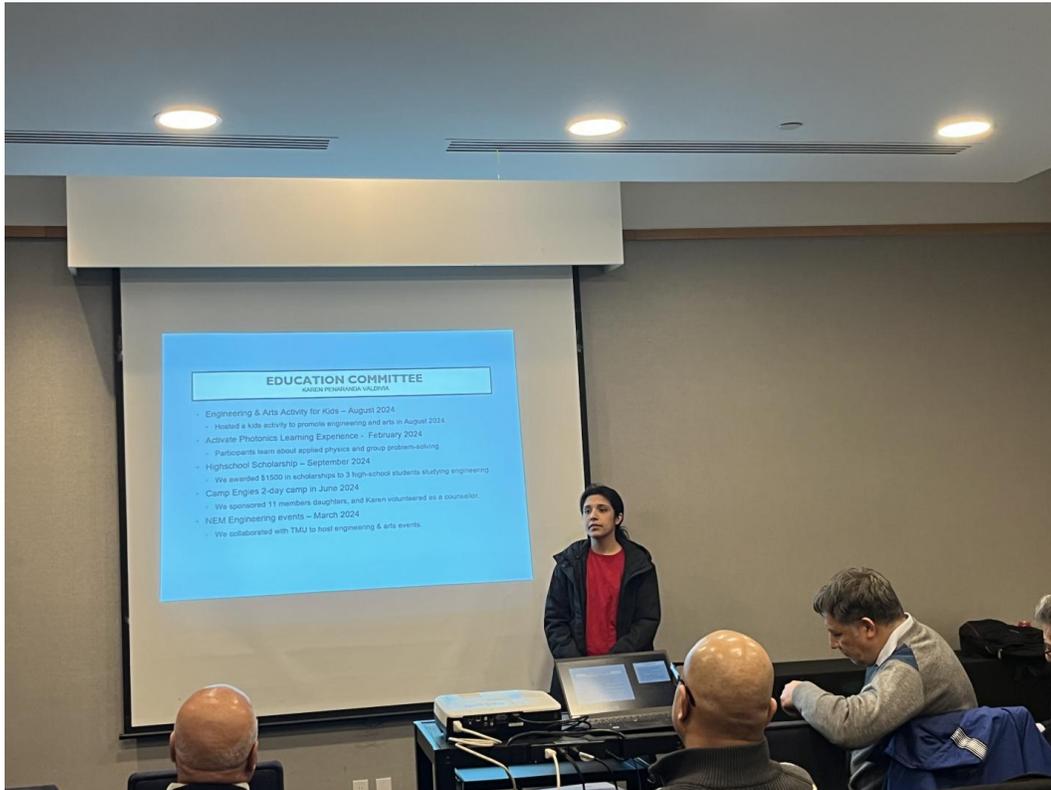
Picture 2 AGM & LPC COMMITTEE CHAIR: DEBASIS DEY P.Eng.



Picture 3 AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR- MOHINDER GROVER, P. Eng.



Picture 4 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR- JOE DSOUZA, P.Eng.



Picture 5 EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR- KAREN PENARANDA VALDIVIA EIT



Picture 6 GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE CHAIR- JOHN PENARANDA P.Eng on behalf of FARZANEH OMRANI, P.Eng., FEC



Picture 7 NETWORKING COMMITTEE CHAIR- ATENA MAHINY P.Eng.



Picture 8 TREASURER COMMITTEE CHAIR- ALAN LAM P.Eng.

SLATE OF CANDIDATES 2025-2026

1. Amit Gupta, P.Eng.
2. Alan Lam, P.Eng.
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4. Karen Penaranda Valdivia, EIT
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List of 2025-2026 Slate of Candidates

Thank you to all members, volunteers, and guests for making this year a success. Let's continue to work together to advance the engineering profession and inspire future generations!

Stay Connected:

Follow us on our website and social media for updates on upcoming events and initiatives.

Contact Us:

For inquiries, please email info@peo-wt.ca.

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