

News Release

National Engineering and Geoscience Week starts tomorrow

For immediate release

February 23, 2007

St. John's, Nfld.:

National Engineering and Geoscience Week, sponsored by Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador (PEGNL), starts tomorrow with a family day at the Johnson GEO Centre.

Running from February 24th to March 4th, NEGW has a number of activities designed to educate the public and, in particular, introduce young people to the important roles played by professional engineers and geoscientists.

“Through National Engineering and Geoscience Week, we want to show people how diverse engineering and geoscience can be and how many career choices there are,” says Doug Goodridge, P.Eng., PEGNL’s President. “We want to raise awareness of the important roles that these professionals play in our everyday lives; to celebrate their accomplishments; and to highlight career opportunities for young people.

“There are a number of activities to help primary, elementary and junior high school students discover the exciting worlds of science and math, including a poster contest, the shaving cream tower contest and the model bridge competition.

“The Week’s activities highlight the fact that professional engineers and geoscientists are valuable assets in our province and our nation. They lead the way in both the ‘old and new economies’: from the non-renewable resource developments to innovations such as the America’s Cup yacht design and the voyage data recorder or marine ‘black box’.”

The public are invited to see the testing of the model bridges, built with popsicle sticks and white glue, by grade 7, 8 and 9 students, and other activities on Saturday, March 3rd at locations throughout the province, including the Village Mall, St. John’s. The NEGW schedule is available in tomorrow’s NEGW Supplement in *The Telegram* or at www.pegnl.ca.

PEGNL gratefully acknowledges the support of TD Meloche Monnex and Voisey’s Bay Nickel Company for National Engineering and Geoscience Week.

PEGNL, a self-regulating professional organization, exists to ensure that there is competent and ethical practice of engineering and geoscience in Newfoundland and Labrador and to ensure public confidence in the professions. PEGNL receives its authority from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador through the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*.

For more information, see the attached Backgrounder, visit www.pegnl.ca or call Steve McLean, P.Eng., Executive Director, at 753-7714.

Backgrounder

In Newfoundland and Labrador, there are a number of National Engineering and Geoscience Week [NEGW] activities run by PEGNL throughout the province:

- A POSTER CONTEST for Kindergarten to Grade 3
- A SHAVING CREAM TOWER CONTEST for Ages 6-10 & 11-15 at the Village Mall
- A MODEL BRIDGE COMPETITION for Grades 7 to 9
- A WORD SEARCH CONTEST for elementary school students in *The Telegram* supplement On February 24th.

Mall Day, The Village Shopping Centre, St. John's, Saturday, 3rd March:

1) The Model Bridge Competition [Starts at 10 a.m.]

Built from popsicle sticks and white glue, these model bridges measure approximately 70 cm x 15 cm x 30 cm and will be tested until they fail.

2) The Shaving Cream Tower Contest [starts at 1 p.m.]

Contestants build the highest tower possible using 50 toothpicks, 6 drinking straws and a Styrofoam cup filled with shaving cream

3) Displays, including PEGNL/Future SET and Johnson GEO CENTRE

Other NEGW Events in St. John's

***Saturday, February 24th* at the Johnson GEO Centre, 9.30 a.m.-5 p.m.:**

Discover the exciting life of a geoscientist! Pan for gold. Hunt for fossils. The JOHNSON GEO CENTRE is offering activities that are fun for the whole family! Regular admission fees apply. Call 737-7888 for further details.

Wednesday, February 28th : PEGNL is a sponsor of the Newfoundland Science Centre's annual **Cardboard Boat Race at Wedgewood Park Pool**. Call 754-8198 for information on this race and other races being held throughout the province. Limited seating available.
