

Professional Engineers and Geoscientists  
Newfoundland and Labrador [PEGNL]

## News Release

**20<sup>th</sup> Model Bridge Day, Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>,  
highlights National Engineering & Geoscience Month  
- millions of popsicle sticks have been glued in the name of learning**

**For immediate release**

**March 4, 2011**

**St. John's:** On Saturday, March 5th, Professional Engineers and Geoscientists Newfoundland and Labrador (PEGNL) will present the 20th annual Model Bridge Day, as part of National Engineering and Geoscience Month.

The annual model bridge building competition is the main event, during National Engineering and Geoscience Month, and in St. John's it will be held on March 5th at the Johnson GEO CENTRE\*. The public are invited to come and see the testing of the model bridges and to join in other family activities, such as panning for gold, mystery minerals. Admission to the GEO Centre is free [with the exception of the *Incredible Insects!* & 3D Films].

The model bridges, designed by junior high and high school students, are built with popsicle sticks and white glue only and are tested until they break. The junior high students are competing for cash prizes, prizes for their school and the title of **2011 Master Bridge Builder**; high school students have the chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship voucher for Memorial University.

National Engineering & Geoscience Month (NEGM) is a celebration of excellence in these two professions and promotes them as career choices for youth. It also helps remind Canadians of the important roles played by professional engineers and professional geoscientists in our daily lives. NEGM 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 professional geoscientists.

"Twenty years is a long time to carry on this wonderful annual event," says Geoff Emberley, P.Eng., PEGNL's CEO and Registrar, "and, on behalf of all professional engineers and geoscientists, I want to recognize and thank the hundreds of volunteers and the hundreds of students and teachers who have made the Model Bridge Competition a success since 1991.

“Through National Engineering and Geoscience Month,” he adds, “we want to ensure the sustainability of these professions by highlighting career opportunities for young people. Besides Model Bridge Day, there are other activities to help primary, elementary, junior high and high school students discover the worlds of science and math, including a poster contest and a Word Search contest.

“We hope that these activities will help students, and the public generally, understand that Professional Engineers and Professional Geoscientists solve problems for which others require a solution: from designing the space shuttle’s Canadarm, to determining the proper size of a beam for a building, to locating and verifying the presence of a mineral to develop into a provincial resource.”

PEGNL gratefully acknowledges the generous support for National Engineering and Geoscience Month activities provided by TD Meloche Monnex Ltd., Nalcor Energy, Exxon Mobil, Vale Ltd. and Memorial’s Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences; along with the many supporters who provide prizes; the teachers who encourage and work with the students; and the many volunteers who make the province-wide NEGM events successful.

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 2008*.

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For more information, please call Geoff Emberley, P.Eng., PEGNL’s CEO and Registrar, 753-7714, or visit [www.pegnl.ca](http://www.pegnl.ca).

\* There are also bridge events being held in Corner Brook, Clarenville and Labrador City.