

## NEWS

## ▼ EDUCATION

# Engineers, geoscientists draw attention to their talents

**JASON LUCIW**  
STAFF REPORTER

The brains behind the machines and infrastructure in our country will be showcasing their knowledge and abilities during events being held in Kelowna this week to kick off National Engineering and Geosciences Month.

As a display of what engineers and geoscientists are capable of when they put their minds to something, a giant E was suspended from the Bennett Bridge earlier this week.

Of course, anyone in the engineering world would plead ignorance about who was responsible for that stunt, if asked, said Chris Ptak with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia's (APEGBC)

Okanagan Branch.

"It's one of the main rules. No one's allowed to say anything," said Ptak.

However, the builders of today and the architects of tomorrow will be showcasing their talents in plain sight on a couple of occasions this week.

The first Okanagan edible car competition will be held on Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Fipke Centre Atrium at UBC Okanagan.

Participants must design a small car capable of zooming down a ramp placed over a staircase. All components must be consumed afterwards, said Ptak.

"While it is a fun and unusual competition, there are some fundamentals that we can link to work in the professions we represent at APEG: Planning, design, teamwork, creativ-

ity, time management, the list goes on," Ptak commented.

"This is the first year the event has been held here, but there is a history of similar competitions at schools around Canada and the USA."

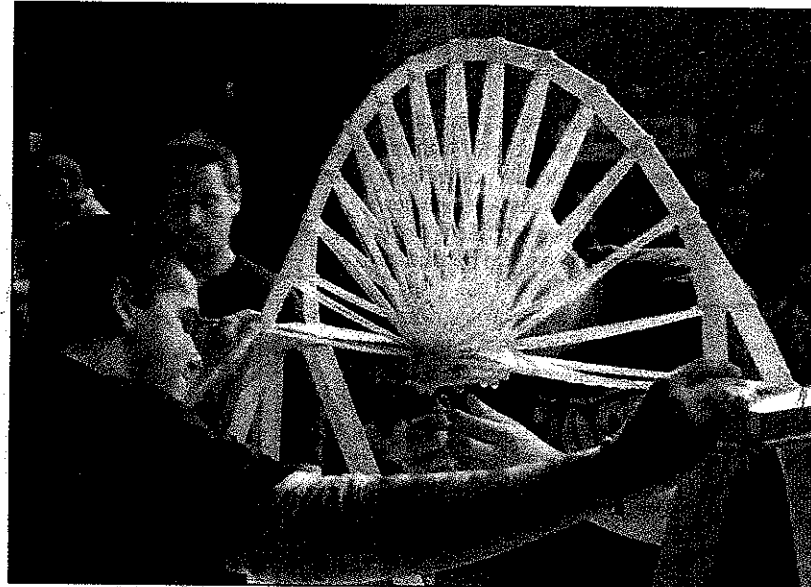
The cars will be judged on how fast they make it down a ramp and how fast they can be eaten.

To create a fair playing field, all cars will be made from scratch with materials provided on site, said Ptak.

Then on Friday, one of the most renowned annual engineering events in the Valley takes place at Okanagan College's KLO campus.

The Spaghetti Bridge Building Contest will be held at the KLO campus from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

APEGBC spokes-



CAPITAL NEWS FILE

**STUDENTS** will take part in the annual Spaghetti Bridge Building Contest, this Friday at Okanagan College.

woman Jennifer Clark said the purpose of these events is to draw attention to engineering and geosciences. The professions

so often go unnoticed despite their importance in creating many of the things we rely on in our everyday lives, she said.

"Engineers make it all work. Not just bridge construction, but electrical systems, computer components, the foundations

our buildings are sitting on, the water that comes out of the tap and the sewage that flows out of our pipes—it's all made possible by engineering."

People are even less familiar with the geosciences side of the profession, said Clarke.

The field focuses on protecting the environment and analyzing its impacts on structures and society.

This week's events will hopefully serve as a reminder to the public about the importance of the professions and maybe even attract a few new recruits, according to Clarke.

"It's our local contribution to a national effort to raise awareness about the professions and to create exposure for young people who are exploring career avenues."