

Martingrove Collegiate takes home engineering prize

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Martingrove Collegiate Institute took the first prize at this year's Engineering Idol competition.

Seven Etobicoke high school teams vied for the top spot in a competition that sought to mimic the real-life working environment of professional engineers. This year's challenge had the theme of sustainable energy. The students were asked to research, design and build a heat recovery ventilator. The ventilators are used to warm or cool fresh air entering a building to improve its energy efficiency.

Before competition day, teams had to submit their designs and plans for approval all the while ensuring that their project would meet the contest's \$150 budget.

All of the funds that the teams needed to participate were raised by the Etobicoke chapter of the Professional Engineer's of Ontario (PEO), who held the competition as part of National Engineering Week.

Subi Alsayed, chair of the Etobicoke PEO, said the challenge was designed to give students a chance to experience the teamwork, design capabilities and hands on skills needed in engineering.

Once the teams' plans were approved, the heat was on. On Feb. 28 at Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School, the teams had three and a half hours to build their ventilators. The finished products were tested with a furnace and sensors that measured air flow and heat exchange to determine their efficiency. In addition to how effective the teams' final products were, judges considered their teamwork, methodology, design and a presentation the teams delivered.

Martingrove's coach, Greg Saylor, said team members Inderraj Grewal, MoQuing Wang, Pankaj Saini, Mike Chong and Jamal Khan had a sting performance and especially excelled at the presentation. The students' confidence won them the day and all members gained valuable experience in to what it's like to compete in a professional environment, he said.

Alsayed hopes to expand next year's competition across the GTA with the help of other PEO chapters.

At the competition two \$500 scholarships were presented to last year's participants who are applying to university engineering programs.