

SATEC ASPIRING ENGINEERS SPEAK AT PEO

Practicing Innovation in the Woodshop

By Mymoon Bhuiyan

On Saturday, June 10, 2017, four of SATEC's Aspiring Engineers spoke at the Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Education Conference. What was the topic? Well, innovation in the form of a wood shop project, first built in a grade 11 tech design class, then adopted by the Aspiring Engineers to finish up. This is a functional model of John Murdoch's mid-eighteenth century *"wooden horse on wheels"*.

Murdoch's strange looking contraption is believed to be the first human-powered vehicle in the western world – about 250 years ago!

The conference started with Mr. McCowan presenting a teacher's perspective – *"Thinking Like Murdoch"* was the lead-in idea.

Then Melanie Tham and Hassan Karim touched upon the history of the vehicle. They both went into detail about the structure, mechanics and how the project relates to engineering. They addressed engineering practices (keeping logs, writing portfolios), designing the vehicle and how the vehicle came together (including how precise the measurements were!)

Then Isha Cheema and Mymoon Bhuiyan talked about the Aspiring Engineers looking forward to building a smaller version next year. Isha talked about some proposed structural and mechanical changes to the vehicle and Mymoon touched on programming the vehicle with an Arduino board to drive itself.

The presentation ended with a Q & A where the PEO members asked us about our interest in engineering and some of the mechanics of the wooden horse on wheels.

This was the second time this year that the SATEC Aspiring Engineers met with PEO members and, like the first time, it was a great experience. The professional engineers were once again very approachable.

