

THE IRON WARRIOR

F2025 Issue 4



MEET THE TEAM

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THE IRON WARRIOR

Iron Warrior

Waterloo Engineering Society

DWE 3520A

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Letter From the Editor: Engineers Claim Hockey Victory (Again)

Julia Suljak, 4A Chemical

Hi readers!

It's the final push to get everything done before the end of the term. I'm sure we all have something due for every course on the last day of classes...

Now that the dust has settled on the World Series, I feel like my last article deserves a follow-up. When I first started writing it, I assumed that the Jays' season would be over by the time I had to submit it. What followed was a run I (and many others) never could have imagined. While the ending was heartbreaking for old and new fans alike, they gave the Dodgers all they could handle pushing it to extra innings of Game 7, winning two of the three games in LA, and never giving up. Before that, they fought back countless times against the Mariners. Before that, they basically destroyed the Yankees. They made MLB history along the way: the first pinch-hit grand slam in World Series history (Addison Barger), the most strikeouts by a rookie in a World Series game (Trey Yesavage), the most hits in a single postseason (Ernie Clement), and more.

At the end of the article I said I had a feeling that, in time, this team would be looked back on in a similar way to the 2015 and 2016 Jays teams, regardless of the World Series outcome. I know the end was devastating, but anyone saying they would've rather watched the Jays get swept by the Dodgers is kidding themselves. They went on a run that brought together so many across the country. They went from last place last season, to giving us an entire extra month of baseball to watch. They gave us a season to remember in so many ways. They fought until the very end, and they were exciting to watch all year. The 2025 Blue Jays will be remembered.

Now, to another sport, this term's EngSoc vs. MathSoc hockey game took place on November 15. This time they went all out, holding the game at The Aud in Kitchener, home of the OHL's Kitchener Rangers (and a place I, as a

Kitchener native who grew up playing ringette, am quite familiar with). While I thought this game was a lot more even than the first game I covered in 2024, Engineering came away with the win once again.

Leading 1-0 after the first period courtesy of a wraparound goal by Josh Cooke, Math was dominant for the first half of the second to tie it up on a one timer. Just over a minute later, Engineering retook the lead (Charlie Kluczkowski), only for Math to tie it up again with just over a minute to go, leaving it 2-2 after two periods. After Math took a penalty early in the third, Engineering's winning goal came on the ensuing power play via a short side backhand by Charlie Kluczkowski. Christian Bergmann would score an insurance goal on a partial breakaway with a little over five minutes to go, and the game ended in a 4-2 victory for Engineering. I also have to mention the referee accidentally getting slide tackled as another highlight; hopefully he didn't get too bruised.

Where Engineering also reigned supreme, I think, was in the stands. I don't have a leather jacket or any engineering paraphernalia, so I was pretty incognito, but the crowd around me was basically all Engineering, and they were having a great time. They brought signs, lots of energy, and the EngSoc exec even had chants of Godiva's Hymn going at one point. In general, it felt like Engineering had more fans than Math, but maybe that was just because we had more to cheer about...

Overall, the bigger (and more comfortable; I can't deny that actual seats are better than the CIF bleachers) venue made for a

cool atmosphere, and both societies did a great job with the event. Although I sort of went to the game for my article, I was not asked to go and cover the game by anyone, nor did I personally know anyone playing on the team. It's just one of the few events put on that I have an interest in going to, and I had a great time even though the only person watching with me was a non-hockey fan. I've noticed the increase in more sporting events in recent terms, specifically inter-faculty ones, and they've looked like huge successes.

So, in conclusion, Engineering wins again!

Before signing off, as this is our last issue of the term and 2026 is my graduating year, this is my final issue as Editor-In-Chief. I briefly want to recognize the amazing team putting these issues together with me. We've had so many new members this term bring new writing, art styles, and puzzles to the Iron Warrior, and returning members have taken whatever I've thrown at them. Extra thanks to my Exec team who helped out a lot behind-the-scenes.

When I first joined this club, I never imagined myself as the person in charge of the entire thing. Although it's a lot of work, it's been incredibly rewarding, and I'm grateful to have had the experience twice now. While I'll still be here in the winter, it's time to pass the EIC reins to Jeremy. Thank you for picking up our issues and reading them, and I hope you enjoyed what we put together this term.

Sincerely,

Julia (Editor-In-Chief)

Photo Credits: Kai, Tron '28, provided by EngSoc.



Finals Survival Guide

Yasmin Abu-Narr, 2A Mechatronics

Finals are upon us. A time of stress, malnutrition, and sleeplessness has befallen our tired hearts. But fear not, I will save you with these tips and tricks to survive (and hopefully thrive!) this finals season!

1. Take care of your physical health

It is so easy to forget to eat and stay hydrated when you're in the middle of a busy study session. However, that will ultimately come back to hurt you if you're not careful. Consuming too many caffeinated drinks, not getting enough sleep or calories, and being dehydrated can make you sick and unable to go any further. It is important to find time to eat healthy, balanced meals full of fruit and veggies to fuel your mind and body. Also, avoid sugary snacks and candies since that will just contribute to brain fog and memory problems, making it way harder to study.

2. Make sure to set times for breaks

Many studies have shown that taking breaks allows your brain to recharge and retain information better. Overworking your mind will ultimately lead to worse results, as it is unable to process and hold the information. Taking breaks and doing something fun with friends or family will allow your brain to reset and improve your attention and memory when you sit down to study.

3. Get outside and get moving

Exercise is key. Your mind and body are interconnected. If your body feels good, your brain feels

good, so make sure you are exercising on a daily basis. It's harmful for you to be sitting in the same posture on the same chair for hours, so make sure you get up and do some stretches or go on a short walk with your friends. It doesn't need to be rigorous training in the gym, it could just be a 10 minute YouTube exercise video, or doing a couple stretches. Do what you enjoy!

4. Keep that positive self talk

Your mind believes what you continue to say to yourself. If you focus on the negative thoughts, that will consume all your thinking and increase your stress. That is not to say you shouldn't feel anxious or worried; that is a very normal thing to experience during finals season. However, it is of extreme importance to not believe every single thought you may have. You are more capable than you think, and it is your brain's job to uplift you, not make it more difficult for you. Remind yourself of all the difficult situations you overcame and use that as fuel to assure yourself of what you can do! Remember, if you are experiencing many harmful thoughts and are finding it hard to manage, reach out for help from a professional.

To conclude, finals are a very stressful time, and people have different strategies to succeed. If you are finding that the strategies you have used in the past are not working, try observing others around you and see what helps them succeed! Finding the study strategies that work for you will reduce the amount of time you need to spend studying and make you a more efficient learner. Good luck! I believe in you.



Photo Credits: Light bulb coming out of book, Eureka!

Comic by Tin Chi Cheung, 1A Geological



Why Art and Creativity Make You A Better Engineer

Ashbala Bhatti, 1A Chemical

The general perception of engineering is that it completely relies on math and science. When people consider it as an academic and professional path, they often consider questions such as, “Am I good at math?” or, “Did I enjoy chemistry?” For the most part, these are valuable questions to ask. After all, every branch of engineering involves math and science in different ways. This can be a restrictive way to look at the profession, however. While expertise in math and science is important, design is a major component of engineering as well. And while familiarizing yourself with formulas and practicing sample problems often results in higher grades on exams, it is not the only component required to succeed academically. All forms of art and creativity, including creative writing, visual art, music, and physical or textile art, can make you a better engineer.

Communication skills are one of the most important skills one can have as an engineer. It's clear to see—most job postings that students come across while securing a co-op list a good ability to communicate as a requirement. Almost all engineers work in teams and alongside other employees who are not engineers; even if your calculations have perfect accuracy, a lack of good communication can be the fatal flaw that destroys a project. In your academic life, managing group projects and writing reports are tasks that students face starting from the first year. A lack of reading comprehension can also be the reason you miss key information in an exam question. Creative writing, which could even include reading



Photo Credits: From assorted-color paintbrushes [Photograph], by RhondaK , 2013, Unsplash (<https://unsplash.com/photos/assorted-color-paintbrushes-Yc7OtFEn-0>).

or writing an article in the Iron Warrior, is a perfect way to improve your mastery of language in all aspects of life.

As mentioned, design is one of the core pillars of engineering. Creativity is essential for good design. Problem solving and out-of-the-box thinking are two aspects that are valuable for the “Brainstorming” stage of the Engineering Design Process. While there are time-tested, reliable solutions to some of the issues engineers deal with today, improvement and innovation is still a major factor in the field. Every invention, from the first light bulb to the modern electric car, required some degree of creativity. Artists utilize this skill when, for example, conveying themes in their paintings or while coming up with new ways to embroider an image, which strengthens the ability to think critically in other contexts as well.

What may be the most important benefit of art and creative work is that it builds perseverance. Art, like any skill, requires practice. It can be frustrating to spend hours on an artistic endeavor and still be unsatisfied with the result. The most experienced artist can sometimes

compare themselves to others and feel that they aren't “good enough”.

In order to improve one's art, it's important to learn to deal with these feelings and continue to practice regardless. The same can be said for engineering. All engineers come across failure eventually, whether that means failing an exam or being stuck on a seemingly impossible section of code, but learning from those setbacks is an important stepping stone towards the road to success. After all, how can someone ever improve if they are always perfect?

Creative outlets are also an excellent way to deal with stress, especially if the focus is not on producing a perfect work of art, but on using art as a form of self-expression. Even if mistakes are made, treat them as part of the experience and don't linger on them as you continue to express yourself creatively. Having a good work-life balance prevents burnout and helps a person reset and recharge, which is especially important when your schedule is busy with classes and assignments. So, the next time you see a paintbrush, a block of clay, or even a pencil and some scrap paper, pick it up and see what you can make with it. It may benefit you in more ways than you realize!

A Colorful Collection of Hard Hats

Yoghashri Karthikeyan Srimathi, 1A Mechatronics

As engineering majors, we all went through the ritual of receiving our hard hats during first year orientation. Throughout the years at Waterloo, students have the opportunity to earn yellow, red, green, and black hard hats. The yellow hat is the one we all get at orientation, and the rest are hard hats you can earn by leading the orientation events as upper years (there's even a fabled purple hard hat that you can earn by completing ScavEng). But what do the different colors mean in an actual workplace?

There are 7 main colors of hard hats you generally see; brown, red, yellow, green, blue, white, and grey:

- Brown hard hats are designed for people who work with a lot of heat and debris (such as welders and steelworkers).
- Red hard hats are typically worn by firefighters.
- Yellow hard hats are worn by manual laborers and people who operate heavy machinery.
- Green hard hats are primarily for safety officers, but may also be used to indicate that someone is new to the workplace (lets others know that they may need guidance).



Photo Credits: Picture of differently colored hard hats stacked on top of each other. [Screenshot]

- Blue hard hats are for electricians and technical experts.
- White hard hats are used by engineers, foremen, supervisors, architects etc.
- Grey hard hats are reserved for the people visiting the job site.

Apart from the main ones listed above, here are some other possible colors you may encounter:

- Orange hard hats help increase visibility for construction workers on the road.
- Pink hard hats are stored in the workplace for anyone who forgot their equipment at home.
- Black hard hats are used by supervisors and site managers (many of the same responsibilities that those with white hard hats have).

The reason each of the above groups of people have their own hard hat colors is because it's important to know what people's roles are in the workplace. White and black hard hats stand out in a crowd of different colors, making them ideal for supervisors and managers (people need to be able to find them easily). In the case of the red firefighter hard hats, it can also serve as visual cues for the general public to easily recognize people in certain occupations.

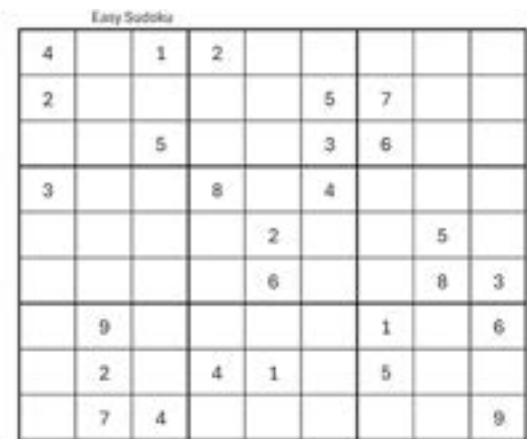
Overall, whether it's to make you stand out or to inform people about your occupation, the different colors of the hard hats serve to make the workplace function more effectively and to make people more identifiable. At Waterloo Engineering, the colors show different levels of leadership and involvement in orientation events (and, of course, it's common for

students to try to collect different hard hats). For those interested, there's a hard hat collection on display in CPH. Be sure to come visit!

Sources:

Ashley. "The Color Code: Deciphering Hard Hat Colors and Their Meanings." The Safety Source LLC, 23 Feb. 2024, safetysourcecellc.com/blog/the-color-code-deciphering-hard-hat-colors-and-their-meanings/. Accessed 17 Nov. 2025.

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SUDOKU
#2025-22

Photo Credits: Kai, Tron '28, provided by EngSoc.



Photo Credits: Engineering O-Team 2024

Opinion: Performative or Just Asian?

Cathy Quan, 4A Life Physics

Recently, there has been a significant increase in performative people, most notably recognized in the male species. What makes someone performative, you might ask? Well, an easy way to spot a performative male is to look for thrifted clothes, a matcha drink of some sort (usually a latte or strawberry matcha), a Labubu or bag charms, tote bag, and a book, either about feminism, or female appealing subjects. In a conversation with a performative male they will make it known he listens to Clario, and is a raging pick-me. You might be thinking, "Oh, but pick-me men are so great! It's romantic and sweet!" but no; pick-me men are to be left in the movies and TV shows, not on the streets or in cafes. Performative women, on the other hand, usually get lumped into the same genre as "not like other girls," partaking in *Clash Royale* or *Clash of Clans*, carrying an energy drink they don't actually like, and always on the man's side whether he is right or wrong. The performative girl is not exempt from carrying a matcha as an accessory either. There have been so many times where I have seen women carry around a matcha, or trending drink they don't like, just as an accessory. Whether you are a man, woman, or identify as something else, I have noticed a lot of activities and features of these performative people have something in common: most are things Asian people just do as a stereotype. Reading and studying in a cafe? Asians are always studying everywhere. Drinking matcha? Matcha is a Japanese drink.

Now let's get into the real issue. It started when I saw this video online of someone saying, "You can't be performative if you're Asian; you're just being Asian". The reason this person said this is because these trends are noticeably Asian culture, and it all started with matcha. Now, when I saw the video it made me pretty happy. I have been enjoying matcha for years now as my preferred drink of choice. In recent times I haven't been able to get matcha due to the matcha shortage as a result of the popularity. Not only can I no longer get matcha, but the lower

quality end of it I can't even afford now. I went from drinking 6 concentrated cups of matcha a day to none, and when I order a matcha in a cafe I feel super weird, because a majority think matcha tastes like grass but continue to drink it because it's trendy. Then I remembered the online video! Not only am I a woman, I am Asian as well. I am simply being Asian. Also, PSA to the matcha trend followers, I believe the new Asian drink that is trending is going to be hojicha.

Next on the chopping block: POP MART, the blind box industry, and Labubus. Some people think that the Labubu trend only lasted 3-4 months in western side before it died out. However, Labubus, blind boxes, and bag charms were a trend long before it ever came to North America. Labubus were released through the creator and POP MART in 2019, became a trend in China, slowly began to die in China, and was noticed in the US from notable celebrities having them. By the time we caught onto the trend, China was already onto the next new thing. Now the creatures are dangling off of performative men's belt loops on the NYC subway, a symbol of consumerism and bandwagons.

I think it's time to discuss the more touchy subject: Asian food, separate from matcha and hojicha. There has been a notable increase in people enjoying Asian cuisine, which is great. I think that each culture has wonderful dishes, and the more people who enjoy it, the better. My problem is with the people who habitually bullied and openly viewed Asian food as disgusting, stinky, and therefore we are weird and nasty for eating it. Those same people are now talking like, "OMG lets go to that FOUGH place! I LOVEEEEEEEEE FOUGH!!!" Or something like, "Let's get dim sum, I've been craving it!" Like, you've got to be kidding me, you are the same person that absolutely stomped and smeared me to shreds just for eating a fried egg with soy sauce on rice. People can change and grow, however this is performative, and bandwagoning just because Asian food and products go viral. There is also a huge tier list that's kind of unspoken where the Koreans are usually the best Asian; they have the esports, skincare, kpop, kdramas,

and more food that people are willing to try and like. Japan is cute, clean, known for being very friendly, and they have the travel rabbit hole which we will not be getting into. Whereas Chinese (real Chinese food), Vietnamese, Indian, Thai, Filipino, and other foods and culture aren't seen as shiny and nice to the west.

Now this isn't to hate; you can enjoy what you wish, just don't be fake about it. Why waste time and money on this surface level stuff when it isn't what you like? And even if you think that Asian food, or anyone's food, is the most horrendous thing to ever graze your pallet, just be nice about it. Just say it isn't for you and move on. I don't want to hear about how disgusting I am for eating it, and how I'm a monster for eating innards or chicken feet. At the end of the day, being performative is just playing pretend.

Editor's Note: This article is meant to stimulate discussion. The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the author, the Iron Warrior, or the Engineering Society.



Photo Credits: 18, N., & 14, N. (2025, October 4). *The California Aggie*. The Aggie.
<https://theaggie.org/2025/10/04/the-performative-male-stereotype-might-mean-more-than-we-think/>

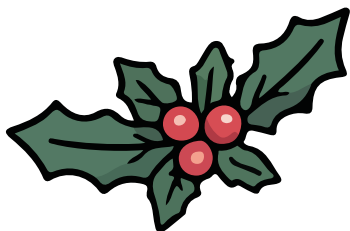


Medium Sudoku

		9	3					
5					8			4
3		7		4				1
		8		6	1	7		
		4	9	5		8		
6				9		4		7
4			5					2
					2	6		

SUDOKU

#2025-23



Hard Sudoku

		9	6					1
		4	7				2	
						4	3	
1	7			2		6		
3				8				5
		8		7			4	3
	8	1						
	9				8	5		
5					9	3		

SUDOKU

#2025-24



Exam Superstitions

Tin Chi Cheung, 1A Geological



Eng Prof Quotes

"Nightmare blunt rotation, as they say."
Christian Euler, CHE 571

(after finishing a derivation)
"Celebration, pop the champagne!"
Mario Ioannidis, CHE 514

"If you don't know [insert concept], you should immediately go to Conestoga College."
Douglas Wilhelm Harder, ECE 150

"I'm a devout AI hater, don't forget it."
Christian Euler, CHE 571

"Don't ask me about the midterm, it will come to me in a dream."
David Johnson, MTE 202

"Wiring a switch to a microcontroller you better be bouncing."
Allyson Giannikouris, MTE 262



To submit Eng Prof Quotes, use this QR code or go on our website:
<https://iwarrior.uwaterloo.ca/>



THE IRON INQUISITION

"How do you unwind after finals?"



"Grading."

JAMES TUNG, P.ENG,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



"Catch up on my sleep."

SAINA, BME 3B



"Running a 2-man!"

PRANAV AND KIRRITHAN, TRON 2B



"I am visiting my brother in Arizona."

NIMRIT, BME 3B



"I have a spa day planned and lots of reading."

MAGGIE, BME 3B



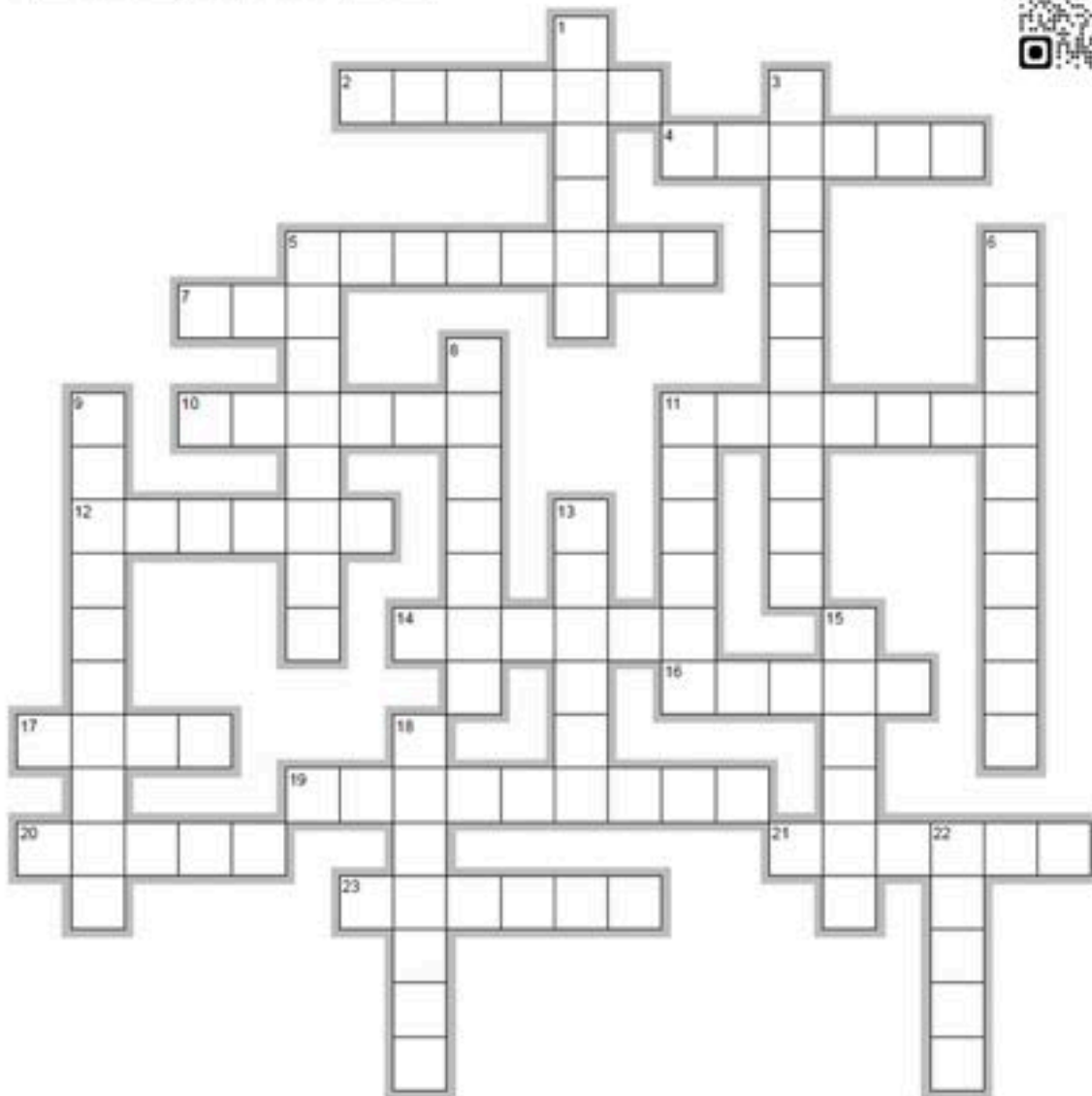
"Craft night and hot chocolate with my friends."

ANA, BME 4A

Check out our instagram for even more Iron Inquisitions @theironwarrior_uw

F2514 Crossword

By Ishan Leung, Computer Engineering



Down

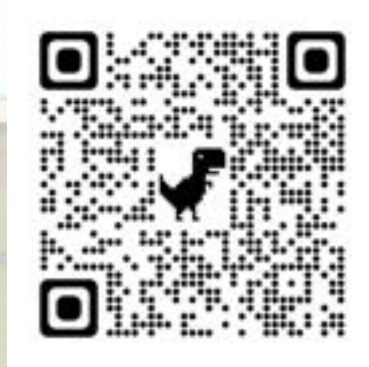
1. A shawarma joint next to Campus Pizza [6]
3. The Arts mascot, a boar, is named ____ [10]
5. Brand name most associated with instant film cameras [8]
6. This device allows you to examine archives on slides; Found in the basement of DP [10]
8. Superman's home planet shares its name with this noble gas [7]
9. Bold and Curve came from this Waterloo "fruit" [10]
11. Engineering tradition; often found covered in patches! [6]
13. Engineering competition where students race concrete ____ [6]
15. This SolidWorks tool is used to make rounded corners [6]
18. This MC room was the home to several cutting-edge computers such as the IBM 7074 Mainframe [3,4]
22. GRT Route 301 ION is this type of rail [5]

Across

2. In-person co-op interviews are typically conducted at the Centre [6]
4. The middle initial of former University of Waterloo chancellor Ira Needles [6]
5. Waterloo Engineering students proudly call themselves these (plural) [8]
7. A Prestigious Waterloo competition, The Canadian ____ Olympiad (abbr.) [3]
10. On the Nickel [6]
11. Replica Rebuilt; A Measuring Tool [7]
12. Surname of the prolific science fiction author of the Foundation series [6]
14. This Canadian coin was introduced in '96 [6]
16. A group of geese [5]
17. Saw nuthin', heard nuthin', in fact ... I was never here (abbr.) [4]
19. Popular campus tunnel connects MC to ____ 2 [5]
20. River that runs through the town of Waterloo [5]
21. A DSLR camera is a digital version of a Single Lens ____ camera [6]
23. DWE stands for Douglas ____ Engineering [6]

Want to join our team?
Come to our meetings! See Discord for info!

LOCATION:
Douglas Wright Engineering (DWE)
Room 3520 & Online



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