

SUSTAINABILITY: THE CORE OF ENGINEERING RESPONSIBILITY



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Editor

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT is a very broad topic. So, where to start? Obviously we can't begin to scratch the surface in a single issue of *Engineering Dimensions*. But with the plethora of information out there on the importance of sustainability for our continued future on this planet, one thing's for sure—engineering educators have taken notice. In Ontario, universities are making sure their engineering graduates are well equipped with the knowledge they

need to take on the present and future challenges of sustainable design (p. 28). And not just by incorporating a course here and there. They're developing entire programs. Case in point: the University of Western Ontario's innovative green process engineering program.

Our second feature shows that inspiration for sustainable engineering design is easy to find in the original inventor of sustainability—nature. This makes perfect sense. After all, before humans came along to throw a wrench in the works, the Earth's tightly controlled ecosystems kept things in perfect balance. In "Mimicking nature" (p. 46), Phil Fung, P.Eng., describes several fascinating examples of animal- and plant-inspired sustainable engineering designs, including a building in Zimbabwe that uses a passive-cooling system inspired by termite mounds.

We continue the theme of sustainability in our Policy Engagement section. One of the features in this section is by Franklin Holtforster, P.Eng., and Ralf Nielsen of MHPM Project Managers Inc., who argue the "undeniable" social, economic and environmental benefits of designing buildings with sustainability in mind (p. 52). They should know. Among MHPM's accomplishments, the company project managed the Richmond speed-

skating oval, a marvel of sustainable design that was a centre-piece of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

I should note that PEO has a new deputy registrar of regulatory compliance. Linda Latham, P.Eng., joined PEO on December 13 and has been settling into her new role (p. 9). A graduate of U of T's industrial engineering program, she comes to the position with 20 years' experience managing large design and construction projects.

At this time of year, we're always focused on our upcoming annual general meeting, public policy conference (p. 57), and Order of Honour ceremony (p. 8)—and this year more so than ever since we're moving the festivities east to Ottawa. We hope you'll join us May 6 and 7 at the Westin Ottawa Hotel. Details are available at www.peo.on.ca. Σ

Restoring our water resources



Western Engineering water experts are examining ways to improve the health and safety of our drinking water. New technologies are being developed to naturally recycle wastewater for reuse, in a fraction of the time normally required. Remediation projects are also taking place, at the nano-scale, to tackle groundwater contamination issues, providing cleaner water for a cleaner future.

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