



## Road to recovery

Since long before the tragic bridge collapses in Laval and Minneapolis, the health of the province's, and the country's, infrastructure has been sliding on and off the front page with remarkable regularity, what with our crumbling bridges, SUV-sized potholes, and suspect water systems.

In "No go for status quo re infrastructure" (p. 44), Mike Mastromatteo delves into the complex set of reasons behind the sorry state of our infrastructure—lack of funding, postponed maintenance, and plain old neglect, being just parts of the problem—and the role and influence that engineers not

only can have, but should have, in the effort to bring infrastructure back from the brink.

Engineers Canada is doing its part to aid infrastructure renewal with the National Round Table on Sustainable Infrastructure, even though their work has been a surprisingly tough sell to government (p. 26). The round table is making progress now though, despite some fits and starts early on.

Dovetailing nicely with the infrastructure theme is our feature on a bridge replacement like no other—at least in Canada, so far (p.23). Last summer, a bridge on Ottawa's Highway 417 was swapped out and replaced in 15 hours flat. That's 15 *hours*. Not days. Not weeks. This truly amazing feat of engineering prowess had that wow factor not only for engineer-types but even for average citizens, judging from the crowd of Ottawa residents who sat bolted to their MTO-supplied bleacher seats throughout the process. Part of the thrill had to be in knowing they were being saved about two years of traffic tedium on a highway that, being the only one through Ottawa, practically everyone has to use daily.

This issue, we also cover the results of the PEO elections and bylaw confirmation on the fee increase (p. 11), and introduce you to your brand-new 2008-2009 Council (p. 54), led by President Dave Adams, P.Eng., who took over from Walter Bilanski, PhD, P.Eng., at our AGM May 10. Adams' debut President's Message appears in this issue (p. 3) and, by the looks of it, he has some big plans for PEO during his year at the helm.

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