

BRING ON THE LETTERS



Jennifer Coombes
Editor

ANYONE WHO'S even glanced through our letters to the editor over the past several years would have no trouble coming up with the subject our letter writers are most passionate about: climate change. In fact, since the last major climate change feature we published (March/April 2005, p. 51), we've received more letters on that topic than all others combined. And many of those letters have been fiery...which editors secretly love, of course. There's a little tabloid in all of us, after all.

Four years later, it's more than time to take on this contentious topic again. I've even cleared out my inbox in anticipation of the onslaught of letters sure to be generated by "Profession ponders its role in climate change debate" (p. 26). In these post-*An Inconvenient Truth* days, it would appear from Mike Mastromatteo's research and interviews that, apart from the most diehard of skeptics, most believe that something weird is going on with our climate and this weirdness cannot be ignored. Interestingly, the controversy seems to have shifted from the science itself to what the engineering response should be.

This issue, we also introduce you to your new council for 2009-2010, including new President Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng. Karakatsanis is only the fourth woman to lead PEO and the first in over a decade. Following her May 9 installation, she was greeted with a standing ovation—a tremendous show of support and enthusiasm for this dedicated, energetic engineer and volunteer. Not surprisingly, as you'll read in her first president's message (p. 3), she has lofty goals for her year in office, among them the development of a long-range strategic plan that will build on the strides PEO has already made in increasing the transparency and profile of the profession. Karakatsanis also plans to make professional development a cornerstone of her presidency.

On another note, the answer to perhaps the most eagerly asked question of late is: yes, PEO has a new headquarters. The deal on 40 Sheppard Avenue West closed in March, and staff will move in gradually between now and the end of the year. Even with our big plans for the space (see p. 8 and www.peo.on.ca for more), we'll rattle around in only about half of the 100,000 square feet available, with lots of room to spare for rent-paying tenants. There will be no worries about getting there either, seeing as the building is right across the street from our current location on the Yonge subway line.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the Ontario Professional Engineers Foundation for Education (FFE) is celebrating its 50th anniversary this month. The FFE,

through generous donations from professional engineers has, over the years, provided scholarships worth over \$2 million to 2500 engineering students. The reality is, without the support of FFE, thousands of today's engineers would not be engineers.

I hope you take the time to read "Building a foundation for education: 50 years and counting" (p. 42) to trace the organization's steps from its humble beginnings in 1959 to where it is today—the largest donor of scholarships to Ontario's engineering schools. Σ

