



The road ahead

Well, I'm not going to be nearly as provocative as our President in my note this issue. There will be no mention of rat poop, for instance (p. 3). Pat Quinn, P.Eng., is one of the few I know who can pull off a remark like that with dignity anyway. And, it appears that my last Editor's Note upset at least one member who thought I was slamming the glamour magazine industry ("Accentuate the positive," p. 9). Although Ms. Wachko is certainly entitled to her interpretation of my remarks, I assure you that I have only love for fellow journalists and that my comments were meant to be taken at face value.

Anyway, to stay on the safe side, I'll attempt to avoid any issue that could conceivably inflame and cling to the basics, i.e. what you're going to read in our last issue of 2006. There's lots to mention, so I'll get right to it.

Let's start with our theme this issue: PEO's strategic plan. There is a tendency, I know, for organizations to draw up grand plans, shout them from the rooftops, and then never mention anything about them again. Not so at PEO. The plan, which directs PEO's operations until 2009 and which was approved by Council in March of last year (*Engineering Dimensions*, May/June 2005, pp. 56-57), is well on its way. Project managers, along with their loyal staff teams and steering committees have been hard at work for months putting the plan into action. Starting on page 55, we present a full progress report of the seven strategic objectives currently underway.

While the strategic plan is still a go, there may be some changes going forward. The current Council has several concerns about the plan, particularly how it's funded and how projects are to be prioritized (pp. 32-33, pp. 55-61). While there will be a change of direction, the important thing is that the plan continues to move ahead.

Some suggestions about the path PEO might choose to take in future come via

a Viewpoint article by George Comrie, P.Eng., former President of PEO (2004-2005). In "Lessons for PEO from Jack Welch" (pp. 45-49), Comrie deftly adapts the unique, not to mention extremely successful, leadership strategies of the tough-as-nails former CEO of General Electric to solving some of the stickier issues facing PEO.

The road ahead is not clear—yet anyway—for PEO's legal challenge of the Ontario housing ministry's *Ontario Building Code* changes. The Ontario Divisional Court justices heard PEO's arguments on October 26 (p. 14), but have not, as yet, rendered a decision.

With 2006 summed up nicely, from an *Engineering Dimensions'* point of view anyway, it's time to focus on what's in store for 2007. The editorial calendar topics are chosen, but the direction we'll take with those topics is fluid and can be

greatly influenced by discussions Mike Mastromatteo and I have throughout the year with members.

So, if you are an expert in any of the topics we're tackling in 2007, know a P.Eng. who is, or have any insights to share, please do get in touch (jcoombes@peo.on.ca). Remember also that our Viewpoint, Professional Practice and Ethics columns are designed to be member-written, so if you have an idea for a column, I'd be happy to hear it.

For now, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Jennifer Coombes
Managing Editor

2007 Editorial Calendar

January/February—Engineering and the Final Frontier

In the international endeavours of space exploration and research, whose laws apply and whose standards are enforced? We'll look at how Canadian engineers are involved in space and how the public is served and protected.

March/April—The Licensing Process

Licensing, one of PEO's key responsibilities, may seem like a mysterious process. We'll look at the regulator's licensing procedures from the educational and experience requirements through the professional practice exam to the types of engineering licences PEO grants.

May/June—The Engineering Team

A look at the growing role and regulation of paraprofessionals in engineering and other professions.

July/August—The Next 10

What's in store for the profession over the coming decade?

September/October—PEO's 85th Anniversary

As PEO and the *Professional Engineers Act* turn 85, an examination of the changes to the Act over the years and PEO's regulatory model versus those of other professions.

November/December—Engineering in Demand

The *Professional Engineers Act* is not the only legislation that governs the work of engineers. We'll explore so-called "demand-side" legislation that calls for certain workers, including professional engineers, to undertake particular tasks to protect the public, and the issues involved.