

## READERS' COMMENTS, ENGINEERS CANADA AND ASSORTED YEAR-END NOTES



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Associate Editor

AS THE LAST issue of 2011 goes to bed, we thought it wise to use this space for a bit of miscellanea. Some editors turn to miscellaneous topics or the mail bag when they struggle to come up with a cogent, unifying theme for their column. In our case though, we do have a range of items to get across.

First of all, I want to comment briefly on the results of this year's *Engineering Dimensions* readership survey. These biannual exercises aren't just window-dressing, but a real attempt to get members' feedback and suggestions as to what they would like to see within these pages.

Talking about numbers and percentages can be a little dry, so I prefer to emphasize the reader comments. Apparently, a lot of you are looking for a shorter, more compact magazine, with concise articles and extra illustrations. Some of you also had thoughts about changes to the online version of the magazine—incorporating summaries of the feature-length articles, and imposing more user-friendly adornments.

As well, readers are hankering for more diverse opinions within these pages. And in a bit of wake-up call to this writer, who has seen more than his fair share of bylines in *Engineering Dimensions*, members

want to see more submissions from writers with the P.Eng. designation (who knew?).

In any case, your comments, suggestions and observations will be taken into account by the editorial team, and we'll do our best to make them a reality in 2012.

Turning to some housekeeping issues, PEO council in September met for the first time in our new corporate headquarters at 40 Sheppard Avenue West in Toronto. It was nip and tuck for the contractors and facilities management team to get the new council chamber ready in time for the meeting. But they managed to pull it off and council now has an on-site meeting facility after spending the last several months on the road. Have a look at contributor Sharon Aschaiek's overview of the PEO renovation project (p. 51) for the latest details.

I hope, too, that you will find enlightening the feature on Engineers Canada and its interaction with PEO and the other provincial/territorial engineering regulators across the country (p. 26). Working with its constituent associations, the national organization went through a long period of introspection and is now setting forth on a new course of increased collaboration and communication with provincial regulators, big and small.

Before signing off, I want to beg your indulgence in allowing me to salute Associate Editor Nicole Axworthy, a colleague whose quiet persistence, attention to detail and patient proofreading and fact-checking have made a better editor out of me, and have been a tremendous boost to the entire department. While Managing Editor Jennifer Coombes has been on her leave, Nicole has taken on many of the management aspects of Jennifer's position. To enable Nicole to take on these additional responsibilities, we're pleased to welcome Zalina Alvi as our editorial assistant for the next year. Zalina joined the team in late October and we hope you'll see her byline in upcoming issues soon. Σ

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