

A MEETING OF THE MINDS



Jennifer Coombes
Editor

WELL, IT SEEMS I couldn't have chosen a less dull moment in PEO's history to return from maternity leave! PEO has its collective hands full—from dealing with the mall collapse in Elliot Lake, through the recent departure of former CEO/ registrar Kim Allen, P.Eng., FEC, to the surprise resignation of Premier Dalton McGuinty and the adjournment of the provincial legislature.

Proroguing the legislature appears to have done nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of Ontario's MPPs for PEO's work, however. Our sixth annual Queen's Park Day (p. 8) was a huge success, by any measure, with 40

MPPs joining PEO staff and volunteers to improve relationships and, most of all, collaborate on policy issues of mutual importance.

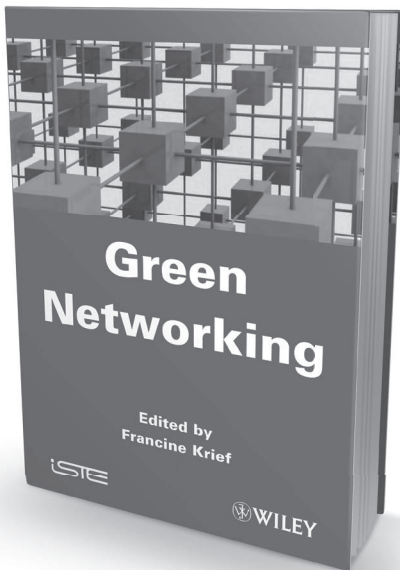
Coincidentally, collaboration is also the watchword in health care, our theme this issue. One could be forgiven for believing that engineering input in the medical arena begins and ends with building all the high-tech gadgetry involved with modern health care. But as Michael Mastromatteo found out while researching his feature on p. 22, engineers are involved in ways you may not have been aware of, and they, together with medical professionals, represent a true meeting of the minds.

Another area of health care in which engineers are involved is in working toward the goal of a shared digital health record in the province. This is something we've all been hearing about for years, but when will this truly connected system be a reality, exactly? Lynne Zucker, P.Eng., of Canada Health Infoway, explains what's standing in the way of enabling patient data to move smoothly and securely from point A to point B (p. 28). Some of those challenges include the vast number and range of points of care and the hundreds of software platforms in use at doctors' offices, hospitals, pharmacies and clinics throughout Ontario.

With 2013 almost upon us, it's time to tackle a new set of themes for *Engineering Dimensions*. First, a big thank you to everyone for one of the most successful calls for ideas for the magazine in recent memory. Your emails sparked ideas for 2013 issue themes (see box) and beyond, and served as the jumping-off point for many of the professional practice, ethics and other columns we'll bring you over the next year.

Here's wishing you a lovely holiday season! Σ

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Mar/Apr	Engineering heroes
May/June	Globalization
Jul/Aug	Engineering innovations
Sept/Oct	Myths of engineering
Nov/Dec	Enforcement