



## A moment of your time

This year, as many of you know, is the United Nations International Year of the Volunteer. The organization, always looking to encourage all of us to better ourselves and the world that we live in, has set out goals, and events and information sessions to get people to give their time to worthy causes. You can check out the web site, [www.iyv2001.org](http://www.iyv2001.org), to see what remains on the agenda.

Professional Engineers Ontario runs its business of licensing engineers and regulating engineering practice by relying on volunteers, individuals and groups, to govern its affairs. Throughout the year committees, task forces and groups meet to discuss the issues, develop policy recommendations, or oversee special projects.

The choice and structure of the groups is not haphazard. Eight committees, dealing with the core functions of the association and a Complaints Review Councillor are set out by the Professional Engineers Act. Their makeup can only be modified through an amendment to the Act passed by the Ontario Legislature. The legislated groups are the Academic Requirements Committee (ARC), Complaints Committee (COC), Discipline Committee (DIC), Executive Committee (EXC), Experience Requirements Committee (EXE), Fees Mediation Committee (FMC), Joint Practice Board (JPB), Registration Committee (REC), and Complaints Review Councillor (CRC).

Another five are regulated groups: the Consulting Engineer Designation Committee (CEDC), The Fee Schedule Committee (FSC), the Nominating Committee (NOC), Reconsideration Committee (RNC), and Regional Nominating Committees (RNO), of which there are five.

Along with this requisite group of committees is a third group of appointed committees set up as needed to deal with pertinent issues of the association.

Where else do volunteers fit in? The PEO chapter system has a core of engineers

who plan programs for their respective chapters. Thirty-eight chapters, divided into five regions, represent PEO in the community and provide an avenue through which members can participate in the profession.

And don't forget *Engineering Dimensions*. The magazine relies on input from professional engineers working in the field of engineering for updates on the impact of legislation and regulations affecting safety, as in the article on page 52 regarding carbon emissions. We rely on you to address issues of practice or knowledge that is useful for engineers in their practice of engineering, as in "Graphic reasoning" on page 48. And we benefit from your insider knowledge to discuss essential services, how the public is affected by their state of repair, and the engineer's role in that, as with our article this month on utilities infrastructure on page 39.

For our November/December issue, we'll look for your input and feed back on the issue of access to the engineering profession. In 2002, we plan to feature themes that include the relevance of the profession, certification and specialization in the profession, and innovation. A lot of thought goes into what issues to discuss in the magazine. We need your knowledge and experience to put these issues into perspective for the entire membership.

This is work; there is no doubt about that. But all work and no pay can have its own rewards. Daniel Webster said that man left to himself would be one of the weakest creatures, but "associated with his kind he works wonders." The magazine can certainly use your skills and expertise to explore the factors affecting the practice of engineering. Can we have a moment of your time?

**Joan Bailey**  
Managing Editor.