



## Some anniversaries of significance

Inspiration for our first two features this issue sprang from the almost simultaneous anniversaries of a couple of the most central events of Canadian engineering history: the 100th anniversary of the collapse of the Quebec Bridge, which provided at least some of the impetus for more formal regulation of the profession, and the 85th anniversary of the *Professional Engineers Act* (and PEO itself).

We offer up a history of the Act, from its creation in 1922 to its most recent major revision in 1984, in “Keeping the Act in tune with the times” (p. 46). And, we uncover the significance of, and the lessons learned, from the 1907 Quebec Bridge collapse in “After the fall—What the Quebec Bridge means today” (p. 50). In the case of the Quebec Bridge feature, we’ve also thrown in a bit of a discipline bent. Bruce Matthews,

P.Eng., manager of complaints and discipline, offers his thoughts on what the consequences would be, and who would be held accountable, if a similar tragedy happened today (p. 53). Little did we know, when planning our September/October content, that it would be made all the more poignant with the tragic collapse of another bridge, in Minneapolis, this summer.

Our second two features offset the somewhat sober topics of our first two. In “100 years of Canadian engineering” (p. 55), we’ve gathered up some of the profession’s more interesting milestones and technological contributions of the last century. Due to some rather ruthless editing to squish our timeline into the two available pages, I know we haven’t captured all of the significant engineering events. (So, before you start writing me emails...I know,

I know.) Nevertheless, you’ll see that our country’s engineers have a lot to be proud of, contributing as they have to the development of a well-respected profession. And, let’s not forget that Canadian engineers have developed lots of really cool stuff. I mean, where would we, and the world, be without our anti-gravity suits, fuel-cell buses, pacemakers and Ski-Doos?

This is just the kind of stuff that may have inspired the newest batch of engineering graduates to choose the path they’re on. In “From optimism to wariness...” (p. 57), Mike Mastromatteo spoke to 10 recent engineering grads fresh out of school for their thoughts—positive and negative—on the state of their chosen profession, and what they hope to bring to their role in it.

On a completely different note, engineering’s own version of the Oscars, the Ontario Professional Engineers Awards, is fast approaching. This year, nine outstanding awardees (p. 12) will be presented with the coveted awards that honour engineering excellence and community service. The gala presentation, which incidentally marks another anniversary—the 60th—of the awards, will be held once again at The Carlu in Toronto on November 10 (tickets: [www.ospe.on.ca](http://www.ospe.on.ca)).

And finally, I invite you to check out a special guest-authored edition of GLP Journal (p. 31), by Howard Brown of Brown & Cohen Communications & Public Affairs, whom many of you know from his work on PEO’s Government Liaison Program. In the spirit of the October 10 federal election, Brown offers you a glimpse into the lives of two engineer MPPs at Queen’s Park: Phil McNeely, P.Eng., and Norm Sterling, P.Eng. These two hard-working MPPs may just inspire other politically curious engineers to follow in their footsteps.

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