

## THE SPARK



Jennifer Coombes  
Editor

**WHO KNOWS WHAT IT IS**, or where it comes from? But each one of the people we interviewed for our innovations feature this issue has it. It's the spark—the drive to make the world a more comfortable, happy, healthy and secure place to live.

In “Inspiring Innovators” (p. 50), we'll introduce you to professional engineers and engineering graduates and students across Ontario who are revolutionizing medical treatments for people living with paralysis, those in developing countries who lack access to vision care, and those who suffer from a variety of diseases and conditions like diabetes and heart disease. Others of them are transforming various areas of our daily lives—better predicting how energy will be absorbed during a car accident to increase the safety of occupants; developing refrigeration technology that, somewhat counter-intuitively, runs on waste heat rather than electricity; and making sure the image quality of the screens we're all addicted to is the best we can perceive. One of them is even building the world's largest functional model of the human brain.

While ingenuity is very much valued in the engineering profession, so, too, is the volunteer spirit. On April 24, the 2015 Order of Honour Awards gala kicked off what's come to be known as PEO's AGM weekend by celebrating the achievements of volunteers who have all given a great deal back to their profession (p. 9). These eight recipients have, like the awardees before them, sacrificed countless hours of their personal time over many years to serve in PEO's chapter system, on committees and on council.

Another notable event during the weekend was, of course, the installation of Thomas Chong, P.Eng., FEC, as PEO president on April 25. Chong's first message as president appears on page 3 and you'll learn much more about what makes him tick in a feature profile to appear in our July/August issue. PEO's first Volunteer Leadership Conference was also part of the packed weekend of events. Full coverage of the AGM and the conference will be published in our July/August issue.

On a slightly self-serving note, I invite you to take part in our 2015 *Engineering Dimensions* reader survey starting May 20. The survey helps us gauge reader satisfaction and assists our advertising efforts. We're once again automatically entering each survey respondent into a draw to win a \$600 gift certificate from TryThat ([www.trythat.ca](http://www.trythat.ca)), a company that offers experiences of a lifetime. If you receive the digital edition of *Engineering Dimensions*, click the link on page 26 in this issue, or visit PEO's home page ([www.peo.on.ca](http://www.peo.on.ca)) to take part in the survey. I hope you'll take the time to let us know your thoughts before the survey closes June 17. Σ

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