

[LETTERS]

PEO STAFFER WILL BE SADLY MISSED

On a lovely sunny morning in June, about 150 family and friends gathered for a graveside service for Brenda Caplan, not far from where her mum and dad had also been laid to rest in Scarborough. It was a beautiful, simple, Jewish ceremony, evocative of Brenda's personality and pride in her background.

A large number of the participants were from, or associated with, the engineering community around PEO, including four former presidents, councillors, and all staff ranks from the top down—what Brenda often called her other family.

In her 18 years among us [as executive assistant to the president], she had a singular and very special position: a trusted sharer of our concerns and a positive carer for our hopes. I was told by an acquaintance that he was surprised at the turnout of engineers. And I told him I was not. I said that Brenda liked engineers, she was liked in return, and her magic was that you always felt that she especially liked you.

Brenda's last few years were tough. She fought an implacable disease with determination and would not give up. Thankfully, her family at PEO gathered with her in February for a retirement party, where she was told how fond we all were of her and where former president Annette Bergeron embraced her on our behalf and made her an honorary fellow of Engineers Canada. It was clear it touched Brenda deeply and was greatly appreciated.

Brenda was special, graced our lives and PEO with her optimism and joy, and will be sadly missed and remembered as a true friend of us all. She rests in peace.
Pat Quinn, P.Eng., Toronto, ON

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