

BACK TO THE BASICS



Jennifer Coombes
Editor

EVER SINCE STONE TOOLS gave way to bronze over 4000 years ago, materials have been at the heart of advancing our civilization. Fast forward to 2015 and nothing has changed. Materials engineering—the discovery and design of new materials, and the improvement of existing ones—makes possible virtually all new technologies in our modern world and, in particular, the world of engineering. Advances in polymers, ceramics, metal alloys, nano-materials and more, are the building blocks of every engineering discipline.

As Carolyn Hansson, PhD, P.Eng., professor of mechanical and mechatronics engineering at the University of Waterloo, says: “Other engineering areas, particularly civil, electrical, aeronautical and mechanical, all draw on materials because you can’t make anything without making it *out* of something.”

Even though materials form the core of all other types of engineering, what materials engineers do tends to be less understood among the public—and even within the profession itself—than other disciplines. But with their tremendous potential to impact the future of technology, it’s only fitting that materials engineers finally get their place in the sun. In “Heart of the matter: Materials poised for new prominence in wider profession” (p. 28), we discuss the far-reaching nature of materials engineering, explain what materials engineers do, and provide some examples of boundary-pushing materials projects happening right here in Ontario.

This fall has been a whirlwind for President Thomas Chong, P.Eng., FEC, Registrar Gerard McDonald, P.Eng., and former president Annette Bergeron, P.Eng., FEC, as they’ve criss-crossed the province presenting town halls in every region to discuss PEO’s key regulatory initiatives with members (p. 8). At the town halls, they’ve discussed the implementation of recommendations of the Elliot Lake Commission of

Inquiry, including continuing professional development (CPD) and a PEO specialist designation.

They’ve gathered a great deal of valuable feedback from members, which will be used to refine the plan the Continuing Professional Development, Competence and Quality Assurance Task Force is developing and that will be presented to council at its November meeting.

At the September council meeting, a motion was passed that members will ratify through referendum any compulsory parts of whatever CPD plan is proposed (p. 8, 37).

At the September meeting, council also decided that *Engineering Dimensions* would resume mailing printed copies to all recipients, beginning with our January/February 2016 issue. We’ll still have the digital edition available to anyone who prefers reading their issues online. To get a digital edition instead of the print edition you will have to change the *Engineering Dimensions* delivery method in your online profile. Just click on the Pay Fees/Manage Account button on www.peo.on.ca and follow the steps to opt in to the digital edition.

It’s almost election season again and PEO is, as always, looking for P.Engs who want to represent the profession on council. The Central Election and Search Committee is looking for members to run for the positions of president-elect, vice president, councillor-at-large, and regional councillor.

The 2016 Council Elections Call for Candidates (p. 39) outlines the positions available on council, what’s required of candidates, and the deadline for declaring candidacy. For further information about becoming a candidate, please refer to the *2015 Council Elections Guide* available at http://peo.on.ca/index.php/ci_id/21663/la_id/1.htm. **Σ**

Engineering Dimensions (ISSN 0227-5147) is published bimonthly by the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario and is distributed to all PEO licensed professional engineers.

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Engineering Dimensions is audited by the Canadian Circulations Audit Board, and is a member of Canadian Business Press.

Indexed by the Canadian Business Index and available online in the Canadian Business and Current Affairs Database. **US POSTMASTER:** send address changes to *Engineering Dimensions*, P.O. Box 1042, Niagara Falls, NY, 14304.

CANADA POST: send address changes to 40 Sheppard Avenue West, Suite 101, Toronto, ON M2N 6K9. Canada Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 40063309. Printed in Canada by Web Offset.

SUBSCRIPTIONS (Non-members)
 Canada (6 issues) \$28.25 incl. HST
 Other (6 issues) \$30.00
 Students (6 issues) \$14.00 incl. HST
 Single copy \$4.50 incl. HST
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 Approximately \$5.00 from each membership fee is allocated to *Engineering Dimensions* and is non-deductible.

