

OALA NEWS

Ontario Association of Landscape Architects

Thursday, June 2, 2011



Ontario
Association of
Landscape
Architects

STAFF CHANGES AT THE OALA

Effective immediately, Aina Budrevics will assume the role as "Acting Administrator" and will continue her duties as OALA Coordinator. Our Registrar, Karen Savoie and Aina will work closely during the transition period. We are pleased that Aina is assuming this increased responsibility and assisting the OALA as we grow and evolve as an organization. The promotion was a unanimous decision of Council. Vice President, Joanne Moran, and I look forward to working more closely with Aina. The office also welcomes on a summer student, Alana de Haan from University of Guelph, to assist as back up during summer and holiday hours. As always, we appreciate all the efforts and dedication to our profession that Karen and Aina provide while managing our group of over 1,400 members.

The Association is moving forward with the Strategic Plan and you will see a number of announcements of new initiatives during the coming months. Please join me in wishing Aina success in her new role.

Yours truly,
Glenn O'Connor
OALA President

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OAA AND OALA STRENGTHEN RELATIONS

On May 20th, 2011, President Glenn O'Connor had the pleasure of attending the OAA Annual Awards Gala in Toronto at the Metro Convention Centre. This was a great evening and an opportunity to build upon relationships with OAA and their members. We will continue to work closely with allied professions to strengthen relationships, consistent with our Strategic Plan. The evening was a success and was hosted by CBC anchor Wendy Mesley. Wendy was very entertaining and did a great job of presenting the awards to the many recipients.



OALA GOLF DAY

Friday, August 12, 2011 is the date for the OALA Annual Golf Tournament, held at Granite Ridge Golf Club in Milton. Mark it on your calendars and start practicing your swing! Look out for more information regarding registration in the next few weeks.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR LARE CANDIDATES

June 13-14, 2011 – Administration of Sections C and E of LARE.
Toronto and Ottawa locations.

June 6, 2011 – Registration opens for the September 2011
Multiple Choice administration.

June 30 2011– Wayne Grace Memorial Student Design Competition
submission deadline

September 12-25 –Multiple Choice Administration

Please visit www.clarb.org for more information regarding the LARE.

OALA MEMBER RECOGNITION ON LANDSCAPE ONTARIO AWARDS

An OALA member brought to my attention an issue related to providing our members with appropriate credit for their design work on Landscape Ontario (LO) design build awards. I personally have encountered this situation and took the complaint very seriously. I wrote to LO Executive Director Tony DiGiovanni. After raising my concerns through a number of exchanges, I asked that LO correct this issue by revising the awards entry forms to allow for credits due for the designer, OALA member or other. I am pleased to advise that LO has agreed and I have assurance from Tony this will occur. I would ask our members to monitor this for the 2011 awards late fall/winter. It is important that credits are given where appropriate to members or other designers of design build construction. As President, I am interested in advancing the profession at every opportunity possible. This is a pivotal time for the Association. If issues arise that Council need to be aware of, please let us know. They will be heard by Council and given the weight warranted.

Glenn O'Connor, OALA President

CITY OF OTTAWA CLAY SOILS- LAO initiates discussion with City staff to address this critical issue

Approximately ten years ago, the City of Ottawa adopted policies restricting the planting of streetscape trees in new residential developments in areas of Leda clays to prevent or minimize damage to foundations. In some cases, planting of smaller shrub like trees are permitted.

These restrictions, combined with shrinking lot sizes, increasing densities, conflicts with buried utilities and urban intensification, resulted in fewer and fewer trees being planted in new residential projects. Several dozen new suburban residential communities with hundreds of new homes each were often completed with an alarming absence of new trees, big or small.

Landscape Architecture Ottawa got together to study the problem with the hope of finding a solution that would respect the City's concerns about liability: the Trees in Clay Soils Task Force comprising of local landscape architects in private and public practice was formed. The Task Force invited James Urban, noted arborist and landscape architect, to conduct

a symposium on trees in clay soils. This symposium invited members of professional disciplines and fields related to urban forestry, arboriculture, planning, landscape architecture and engineering and the biological sciences, as well as the general public, to explore issues relating to trees in clay soils.

The conclusions noted: 1-trees are only one factor in the dewatering effects on clay soils, and 2- there was a low incidence of tree-related foundation damage that had been observed or reported by City staff over the past two decades, and the City's restrictions do not appear to be justified.

The Trees in Clay Soils Task Force has decided to make a written request to the City's General Manager of Planning and Growth Management to consider easing the restrictions on tree planting.

SALARY SURVEY

Last February, OALA announced the release of the most up-to-date version of the SDA (Society for Design Administration Canada) Salary Survey. As industry standards are continuously evolving, it's important to know whether your company's HR practices are in line with current trends.

The detailed report provides a financial picture of salaries and benefits with Canadian landscape architecture, architecture, and interior design industries. If you have not yet purchased your copy of the 2010 SDA Salary Survey, you can order your copy by contacting salariesurvey@sdacanada.com. OALA members who participated in the 2010 Survey may purchase the results for a special cost of \$99. Non participants may purchase the Survey for \$199.



IN OTHER NEWS...

2011 DXA – CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Earlybird submission deadline: **July 4, 2011**

Submission deadline: **September 30, 2011**

The 20th Annual Design Exchange Awards (DXA) celebrates Canadian design excellence and recognizes the critical role of design in all types of organizations including commercial entities (large and small businesses), not-for-profit organizations, and the public sector. The Awards celebrate the success stories achieved through close partnerships between clients and designers in the fields of Architecture, Engineering, Fashion, Industrial Design, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture, Visual Communications and Urban Design.

The DXA is Canada's only awards program to judge design by results, balancing function, aesthetics, and economic success. We are committed to ensuring that the Awards are truly reflective of the best that Canadian design has to offer. For more information about the categories, eligibility & criteria please visit www.dx.org/dxa



OALA SOCIAL COMMITTEE'S PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

So you think you're an AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER? Prove it!

This is an open invitation for any OALA member, associate, or landscape architecture student to submit their own works of art, so you can be judged, critiqued and scrutinized by your peers, colleagues, friends and future peers, colleagues, and friends. Judging will be open to all OALA members online after the photo submission deadline of **August 31st**.

The themes are: HABITAT or LINES

Full competition guidelines can be found on the OALA website, Call For Submissions page, [click here](#).

The winners will be unveiled at a downtown Toronto social evening in the early fall. All of the submissions will be displayed and prizes will be awarded to the top three photos for each theme.

We look forward to your participation! The SoComm

COMING EVENTS...

Come see the Blue Jays play the Pirates for only \$10 with the Social Committee!

The OALA Social Committee has purchased a block of seats for any OALA Members (or friends of) who want to get together for a night of good conversation, drinks, and ummmmm, oh yeah baseball!

The game is on **Tuesday June 28th @ 7:07 pm**. We will get together as a group beforehand at the Steam Whistle Brewery (www.steamwhistle.ca). Meet us anytime between 5:00 and 6:30, then head over to the Rogers Centre around 6:30. If you can't make it to Steam Whistle, please meet the group at 6:45 at Gate 5.

Tickets are \$10 each, and we have a block of 20 to start, so we can all sit together. Please contact Phil Collins (pcol@me.com) by 5p.m. on Friday, June 24th to reserve your tickets! Bring the office!

Cheers -- The SoComm



Green Drinks Toronto

The members of the Social Committee invite you to join them at Green Drinks on **June 22nd** from 6-9p.m. at Grace O'Malley's at 14 Duncan Street in downtown Toronto. Green Drink nights are held the third Wednesday of every month and are usually free of charge. This is a great way to get talking with people in other "green" fields, as well as network internally with any OALA members in attendance. Hope to see some of you there!

<http://www.greendrinks.org/ON/Toronto>

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A component of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects.

