

# OALA NEWS

Ontario Association of Landscape Architects

Tuesday, September 20, 2011



Ontario  
Association of  
Landscape  
Architects

## OALA Golf Day

The OALA 9th Annual Golf Day took place on August 12th at the Granite Ridge Golf Course in Milton. Golf Day gives our members an opportunity to meet and network with other OALA members and industry professionals in a relaxed and social setting over the much loved game of golf. Thanks to the organizing committee, Aina Budrevics, Alana de Haan, Dean Armstrong, Kara Gibbons, and Glenn O'Connor, the day was deemed a great success by our members and sponsors alike. We were blessed with beautiful weather which lasted well into the evening, and greatly enjoyed the hospitality of Granite Ridge.

After lunch, our participants split into their respective foursomes and the tournament began. Jeff Burnett, Chris Baker, Matt Connell, and Jeff Baur were the winners of the tournament. After fun on the green, everyone gathered in the dining hall to celebrate their winnings and enjoy dinner among friends and colleagues.

As always, we would like to thank our sponsors for helping us make this day possible. The OALA was able to raise the funds which are donated each year to support landscape architecture programs at the University of Guelph and the University of Toronto. These students are the future of our association, and the schools greatly appreciate our donations. Numerous promotional gifts were generously donated to the prize table, allowing everyone to leave the day with something special. It is notable that the extra participant gift bags were sent to the University of Guelph to be distributed to the students.

Thank you to everyone who came and made this day possible.

## IIDEX: September 22-24

The OALA is working with IIDEX to promote the landscape architecture profession to the design, architectural and business communities across Canada. This unique partnership reinforces the trend towards the integration of interior and exterior spaces and the increased collaboration between all design, architectural and building professions.

Running from September 22 -24th at the Direct Energy Centre in Toronto, the IIDEX exposition and conference will draw 15,000 attendees, 350 Exhibitors and 75+ Seminars. An e-mail was sent out to all members on September 15th with the details regarding the Landscape Architecture related seminars.

The OALA will be at booth #111. Come by and say hello!

## In this issue...

OALA Golf Day.....	1
OALA at IIDEX.....	1
Toronto Port Lands.....	2
Practice Act Task Force.....	2
Call for new Task Force members.....	2
2012 OALA AGM.....	3
Website Member Login.....	3

## In Other News...

Importance of streetscapes.....	3
Networking in Ottawa.....	3
Last chance photo contest.....	3
OTS Student Competition.....	4
DX Awards.....	4

## Coming Events...

UofT: Here Be Monsters.....	4
The Importance of Public Space.....	4
UofG Lecture: Mark Aubin.....	4
UofT Lecture: Elizabeth Meyer.....	5

## Toronto Port Lands



Toronto City Council will be voting on September 21st on a recommendation to take [Port Lands](#) revitalization away from [Waterfront Toronto](#). This will start the process of replacing a Council-approved plan for a spectacular new neighbourhood to be built around a renaturalized Don River mouth that is being developed by some of the most talented landscape architects, urban designers, and technical experts in the world with an alternative plan—one that ignores 7 years of an open, collaborative process with thousands of engaged citizens. It will hurt all planning and design professions if an effort prepared with the public interest in mind is abandoned for a plan with no consultation and ignores the 19M already invested in the planning, design and approvals process.

As Landscape Architects we should put our professional opinion forward to Toronto City Council that they should reject the Executive Committee Recommendations to take the Port Lands away from Waterfront Toronto. The public already have the right plan – let's get on with it!!! Ask them to vote NO to taking a step backwards on September 21st.

**CodeBlueTO: [Click here to sign the petition.](#)**

What can you do? **Write an email** to the Mayor and Council telling them not to sever the City's relationship with Waterfront Toronto (contact information, [click here](#)). **Share the news** – call friends and neighbours, send out emails, post on Facebook, tweet about it ... get others to sign the petition and let them know what's going on at City Hall this week! **Come to Council** on Wednesday to bear witness and show Councillors that Toronto is watching.



## Practice Act Task Force Update

A task force has been created, chaired by Eha Naylor, to investigate and present a report on the requirements and implications of pursuing a practice act for the profession, including member feedback, as per the approved Strategic Plan, Item 10. This task force is timely, as the OPPI is currently in the process of gaining their practice act status. As well, CLARB has a goal of having all their member boards obtain the practice act. A report containing all the required information, and the pro's and con's of going ahead with such an act, will be created with the aim that Council can bring the report forward and make a recommendation to the membership at the 2012 AGM.

## Members Needed for OALA Task Force

A new OALA task force is being formed to create an outreach program for LAs to work with community groups who are looking to invest in their public space and get a better understanding of landscape architecture. Many OALA members already give back to their communities coordinating landscape related projects and the OALA council would like to support a program to help more LAs work together to do just that.

Task force members will collaborate to create a model for an OALA sponsored volunteer program. Individual task force members will be asked to take the lead on questions such as insurance, program finance and budgeting, program administration, partnership opportunities, and



volunteer/client engagement. A task force chair person will be elected from task force members. All members will play an integral role in identifying an acceptable program model and formulating recommendations to council.

Meetings will begin in October and will follow once each month until the summer of 2012. Please contact Jon Woodside before **October 1st** at [jkwoodside@gmail.com](mailto:jkwoodside@gmail.com) for more information.

## **2012 OALA Annual General Meeting**

Council has decided that the 2012 OALA AGM will be held in Toronto next March. Details will follow as they become available. See you there!

## **OALA WEBSITE: No Member Login**

We hope you have had time to check out the new OALA website! It is a project still in the works, and we will continue to add new content and sections. Currently there is no member login. All information posted to the website is available to everyone. Once we post information to the members' area we will advise everyone of their login information. Thank you for your patience while we build the site.

## **IN OTHER NEWS...**

### **The significance of streetscapes in new development**

Senior Planning and Growth Management staff at the City of Ottawa hosted a meeting with the Local Landscape Architecture Chapter Task Force including guest, OALA President. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate a strategy for the accommodation of proper street trees in new development plans. The group will have subsequent meetings until year end 2011 in order to resolve this important issue. Thank you to John Moser at the City of Ottawa and the Trees in Clay soils task force, most notably Sid Takar, for organizing this.



### **Networking in Ottawa**

The OALA Vice President attended a professional networking event organized by The Ottawa Region Chapter, Canada Green Building Council. The Chapter hosted a tour of the newly completed Ottawa Convention Centre led by Valerie Roux Director of Facilities. In keeping with the OALA Strategic Plan initiatives, the connection with related professions offered the opportunity to present the work of our members on this site as well as elsewhere in the City. Thanks to Teresa Hanna, Executive Director ORCCGBC.

### **OALA SoComm Photography Contest: Final chance!!**

We have had an overwhelming response to our Social Committee's organized photography competition, with over 50 submissions to date! Only a few weeks left to submit your photos. Ontario's summery weather has provided ample opportunity for experienced photographers and amateur shutterbugs alike to get outside and take some snapshots. Submissions in the themes of **Habitat** and **Lines** will be accepted by e-mail to [pcol@mac.com](mailto:pcol@mac.com) until September 30th . After the deadline, stay tuned for the voting process, where members will get to vote online to select the winning photographs. Winning photographs will appear in an upcoming issue of Ground magazine!





## OTS Student Design Competition

Ontario Tire Stewardship is now accepting entries for the 2011 OTS Student Design Challenge – a chance to dream up creative uses for recycled tire products to meet real world design challenges that could earn you a scholarship and chance to implement a winning landscape design at Toronto's Evergreen Brick Works. The competition is open to students of landscape architecture and related disciplines currently attending a post-secondary institution in Ontario.

Register by October 17, 2011 | Submissions deadline November 21, 2011  
Visit [www.otsdesignchallenge.ca](http://www.otsdesignchallenge.ca) for complete information.



## Design Exchange Awards Submission Deadline

The deadline for submissions is fast approaching - September 30! Please [click here](#) to read complete information. 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.

## COMING EVENTS...

Check the coming events page, with the new calendar format, on the OALA website regularly! More coming events of interest to our members are listed daily.

## Here Be Monsters: Daniels Student Exhibition 2010/2011

The work in this exhibition represents every studio course that took place during the 2010-2011 school year at The John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. Studio projects in this exhibition were nominated by fellow students and faculty.

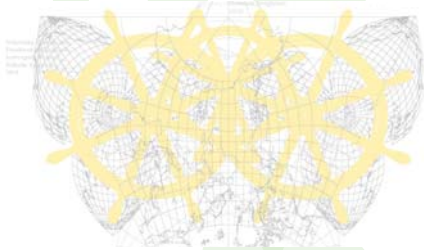
Gallery Hours: Monday to Friday 9-5 / Saturday 12-5. Admission is free.  
[Click here](#) for more details.

## Yonge Street Speaker Series: The Importance of Public Space

With city officials in the midst of reviewing all of its services and programs, Yonge Street's first-ever public event comes at a crucial time in Toronto's history. Our inaugural panel, on the evening September 22nd, will focus on the importance of public space in our city. Everyone is welcome. Location: Birkbeck Room at the Ontario Heritage Centre, 10 Adelaide St. East. Doors at 6:00, program will start at 6:30pm. The Yonge Street Speakers Series is sponsored by the Toronto Community Foundation and Waterfront Toronto. [Click here](#) for more information.

## University of Guelph Guest Lecture: Mark Aubin

Mark Aubin, Google Software Engineer | 11:45 - 12:45 Thursday, September 29  
Room 125 Landscape Architecture Building, University of Guelph



Mark Aubin joined Google in late 2004, when his company, Keyhole Inc., was acquired by Google, which led to the release of Google Earth. As a Keyhole co-founder and now a software engineer on the Google geo team, Mark serves as a spokesperson for Google Earth, communicating with users around the world. Prior to founding Keyhole, Mark worked at Silicon Graphics, where he was an applications engineer specializing in geospatial imaging. It was here that he participated in the development of the legendary "Space-To-Your-Face" project in which people could zoom from outer space to street level views of our planet. While showing this demo, Mark became convinced of the potential for digital globe product for the masses.

This event is being supported by the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects.

### **University of Toronto Public Lecture: Elizabeth Meyer**

6:30 PM | 230 College Street, Room 103 | 2011 Michael Hough / Ontario Association of Landscape Architects Visiting Critic

Elizabeth K. Meyer is one of the leading landscape architectural theorists in the United States. In 2010, she was on the MVVA team that won the City+Arch+River design competition for the St. Louis Gateway Arch Grounds and their surroundings. In 2011, she was one of two landscape architects included in the annual DesignIntelligence rankings of Most Admired Educators in the United States.

Meyer has lectured at universities on four continents, and published widely on topics concerning contemporary landscape design practice and theory, such as "Site Citations: Grounding the Modern Landscape" in Burns and Kahn's Site Matters and "The Post-Earth Day Conundrum: Translating Environmental Values into Landscape Design" in Conan's Environmentalism in Landscape Architecture. Her writings provocatively question conventional norms and assumptions. For instance, in "Uncertain Parks. Disturbed Sites, Citizens and a Risk Society," Meyer explores the social implications and aesthetic conundrums inherent in the making of new parks on toxic industrial sites. In "Sustaining Beauty. The Performance of Appearance," she calls for the insertion of aesthetic concerns into a sustainability agenda arguing that without them sustainable design will have a limited impact on the environmental practices and ethics of the public. Her most recent publication, "Slow Landscapes. A New Erotics of Sustainability" is featured in Harvard Design Magazine (Winter 2010).

3 Church Street, Suite 407, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5E 1M2  
Tel: 416-231-4181 Fax: 416-231-2679 E-mail: [oala@oala.ca](mailto:oala@oala.ca) [www.oala.ca](http://www.oala.ca)  
A component of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects.