

### Ontario Association of Landscape Architects

Thursday, April 5, 2012



### Special Edition Newsletter: OALA Conference and AGM

The 2012 OALA Conference and AGM drew a large attendance, and was a successful event! 137 Full Members, 33 Associates and an additional 60 students, guests and sponsors participated in our day-long event at the Town of Markham. The venue in the municipal setting was very appropriate and bright. It was an honour to hold our Conference and AGM in the Markham Municipal Chambers. The food was delicious and everyone was engaged and energetic. Break times were noisy, yet if too short due to the full program, and old friends and new took time to catch up with each other.

### The Conference

The OALA would like to extend a big thank you to the members of the Continuing Education Committee and the Chairs Marianne Mokrycke and Victor Ford, for all the work they did to create and coordinate such a great Conference program!

We were privileged to have Frank Scarpitti, Mayor of Markham, open the day. A thought provoking Keynote address was given by **Ken Greenberg** – Ken eloquently noted the importance of walkable spaces and the link between pedestrian oriented communities and healthy communities. The principles were illustrated in many examples of ‘foot friendly and foot frustrating’ urban environments. Using the City of Toronto as one of many examples, Ken graphically demonstrated the changing demographics between the city centre and outlying areas over the past few decades. He stressed the importance of viewing urban design holistically as our cities evolve and increase in density. Ken also gave a heart warming tribute and dedication to our recently passed colleague Eric Pedersen.



**Anne McIlroy**, partner at Brook McIlroy, gave a talk on Transforming Urban Landscapes. Anne spoke of how sensitive design, from inception to integration creates humanistic environments of scale and perpetual interest. She demonstrated these principles through popular examples of recent destinations re-created in urban cores. She encouraged the familiar to be transformed without losing the integrity of the original elements- High line in NYC was one of many such locations she shared to prove her theory.



**Daniel Leeming**, partner at The Planning Partnership, gave us insight on Suburban Sustainable Revival referring to key elements in good urban design and the need to understand the importance of health

# SUSTAINABLE URBAN & SUBURBAN REVIVAL

as a factor in policy development. These two talks demonstrated that sound planning, transferred into legislative teeth is essential as is design which understands the integrity of urban landmarks in order to achieve both sustainable urban and suburban revival.

For our second morning seminar **Eha Naylor** gave a very comprehensive overview of the research that the Practice Act Task Force completed over the last year. Please have a look at the presentation posted online (Members' Area - AGM) to see an overview of the completed research. The task force made recommendations during the AGM, which can be reviewed in the next section of this newsletter.



**NEW!: All of the presentations are available to view on the OALA website. Audio files accompany the presentations, so you can follow the presentations and hear the discussion.**

## The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting saw recognition of the 46 new Full Members and the President gave an update on which goals and actions are being achieved for the 2011-2013 Strategic Plan. The members approved the 2011 audited financial statements. After seeing the 3-year budget projection prepared by the Treasurer and Budget Committee, members also approved the recommendation that the 2013 membership dues not be increased.

Five nominations were received for five open positions on Council. Joanne Moran, Morteza Behrooz, Sarah Culp, Doris Chee and Alana Evers (Alana for a one year term). Inna Olchovski was elected as the new Junior Associate Representative. The full 2012-2013 OALA Council will be featured in the April newsletter later this month after the April 16th Council meeting.

Two items on the Agenda which received well warranted discussion were the recommendations of the Practice Act Task Force and the Report on Mandatory Continuing Education.

## Practice Act Task Force

Eha Naylor presented the recommendations that resulted from work the task force had completed in the previous year and from the well prepared summary that was presented in the morning session. In general, moving forward on the recommendations would not ensure proceeding with the practice act, but rather it would provide for resources and commitment to fill the gaps in the research done to date and to come back to the membership with a more complete road map of the process. The following motions were passed:



The Practice Act Task Force recommends that, a motion be placed before the general membership at the Annual General Meeting on March 23, 2012 enabling the following actions:

a) Approval to continue to identify the issues and develop a strategy for moving towards a 'Professional Practice Act'

b) Approval to have the O.A.L.A. engage the services of a legal firm, skilled and experienced in the parliamentary

lobbying and legislative procedures required to successfully achieve the objective. Such a firm would establish the process of maintaining key official contacts, addressing emerging issues and report to the O.A.L.A. representative committee on progress to date.

c) Approval to Council to allot \$25K from the Reserve Fund towards the development of a Practice Act (PA). This funding to be transferred in whole or in part to the OALA general



operating account as required and noted by the PA presentation, commencing April 1, 2012.

d) Approval to form key O.A.L.A. sub-committees to deal with issues regarding: member communications; liaison with legal advisors; stakeholder consultation; fundraising; emerging issues; and other matters as they arise.

e) Approval to report back to the membership by the next AGM on key issues, proposed framework and financial implications related to a 'Professional Practice Act'.

## Report on Mandatory Continuing Education



At the 44th Annual AGM the membership ratified the Council approved Mandatory Continuing Education Program. **Kendall Flower** gave a presentation on behalf of the Mandatory Continuing Education Committee. There was thorough discussion on each aspect of the program and one of the recommendations was modified by a new motion ([click here to view a page with all the motions](#)).

Following is a summary of the program as of March 22, 2012.

[The full report is posted in the member section of the OALA webpage, subcategory Continuing Education Program.](#)

• The program will be phased in over 3 years. A Committee will oversee the transition. The Committee's mandate is to refine the actual reporting requirements, both by type of professional development pursuit and scoring for specific activities. A request for participation on the committee by full members and Associate Members with +7 years will be sent out by the Registrar.

• In the first 2 years Full Members and Associates with +7 years will be required to respond to surveys at the end of each year: 2012 & 2013 in order to provide information to the Committee as the requirements are refined.

• In December 2012, a generic survey, similar to the one issued in January of this year will be sent to participating members.

• In October 2013 a questionnaire will be sent to individual members to return at the same times with their dues remittance (December 31, 2013).

• The Committee will report by 'e-blast' and on the web page regarding the progress of the program refinement. Communications will be issued quarterly in 2012 (June, September & December) and semi-annually in 2013 (June & December).

• At the AGM in 2014 the Committee will provide a full update to members including the recommended scoring for the program. The scoring forms will be available to participating members to self-report on the web page.

• Exemption requests based on individual circumstances may be submitted to the Examining Board for consideration.

• Participation to the end of 2016 will be reported by the Registrar in an Association wide publication.



## Call for Committee Participation: OALA Continuing Education Program Development 2012-2016

We require Full Members and Associate members with +7 years to assist in the refinement of the Continuing Education Program scoring as well as course and seminar evaluation criteria. The criteria will be applied to rating Professional Development undertakings and assessment of proposed educational events. The committee's objective is to develop a final program to report to the membership at the AGM in March 2014.

Meetings take place in the evenings by teleconference once per month, and are typically one hour long.

Inter-meeting work will be distributed to participants willing to do additional research and development.

Committee's progress will be reported verbally at Council meetings on the second Monday of each month. Written reports will be submitted to Council where approvals are required.



All meetings are suspended in July & August.

Status updates will be sent to the membership via e-mail communications (e-blast) and posted on the OALA website on a page designated for the Continuing Education Program. Once completed, the program management will be allocated to the Registrar and Examining Board for implementation.

If you would like to join this committee, please e-mail your letter of interest to Aina Budrevics ([oaladmin@oala.ca](mailto:oaladmin@oala.ca)) by 5:00p.m. on Monday, April 30th.

With the business of the AGM complete, the business meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. Following, members moved to the President's Reception and Awards Ceremony.

## The President's Reception and Awards Ceremony

Four CSLA Regional Awards were presented to OALA Members:



**PLANT Architect Inc./ Douglas Coupland**



**PMA Landscape Architects with The City of Toronto**

- An Honour Award – to PLANT Architect Inc./ Douglas Coupland for the Canadian Firefighters Memorial (Ottawa).

- A Citation Award in the Design category – to PMA Landscape Architects with The City of Toronto for Colonel Samuel Smith Park - Artificial Ice Trail (Toronto).

- A Citation Award in the Design category – to Corush Sunderland Wright Limited and Lashley + Associates for Rideau Canal

Esplanade - Ottawa Convention Centre Forecourt (Ottawa).



**Corush Sunderland Wright Limited and Lashley + Associates**



**Dillon Consulting**

- A Citation Award, in the Planning and Analysis category – to Dillon Consulting for the Oak Ridges Community Centre and Park Master Plan (Richmond Hill).

- A Citation Award, in the Planning and Analysis category – to EDA Collaborative and The Regional Municipality of York for South Yonge Street-Steeles Avenue to Bantry Avenue (York Region)



**EDA Collaborative and The Regional Municipality of York**

Seven OALA Honour Awards were presented:

- The OALA Award for Service to the Environment went to the **City of Toronto and its content contributors** in recognition for its Biodiversity Series of Booklets.

- The OALA Certificate of Merit for Service to the Environment went to the **City of Thunder Bay and The Spirit Garden Design Team** in recognition of the Spirit Garden at Prince Arthur's Landing.

- The OALA Research and Innovation Award inaugural recipient was **Sam Benvie**, for his research work on the Adaptive Management of Urban Vegetation as well as plant science and identification which he has taught at Ryerson and York Universities.

- The OALA Honorary Member Award went to **Peter Simon**, Urban Forestry Planner with Policy & Standards at the City of Toronto for



**The City of Toronto and its content contributors**



**The City of Thunder Bay and The Spirit Garden Design Team**



Sam Benvie

his work improving Toronto's tree canopy through many initiatives, and his involvement in streetscape projects that make him a true steward of the urban environment.

• The David Erb Memorial Award for outstanding volunteerism went to **Le'Ann Whitehouse Seely** for her exemplary voluntary contribution to the OALA over the past 10 years.

• The OALA Public Practice Award went to **Lawrence Stasiuk** who entered public service at the City of Hamilton in 1990 and has since provided leadership in his workplace and has always had a strong belief in continuing education and has participated on Council for seven years always with a willingness to undertake a variety of responsibilities in a thorough and professional manner.

• The OALA Pinnacle Award for Landscape Architectural Excellence went to **Glenn Harrington**. Glenn is widely known for his innovative approach to environmental landscape design, and for his experience in collaborating with grass-roots citizens groups on local landscape rehabilitation projects. He is the founding Principal of Harrington McAvan Ltd., a member of the OALA/CSLA for 37 years, and a recipient of the OALA's prestigious *Carl Borgstrom Award for Service to the Environment*.

It was an inspiring evening, and congratulations to all the award recipients.



Peter Simon



Le'Ann Whitehouse Seely



Lawrence Stasiuk



Glenn Harrington



Associate members  
Todd Smith and Luke Kairys

## THE ASSOCIATES

The Associate Representatives, Nell Slingerland and Jon Woodside, offered a "passport challenge" to associate members to encourage their active participation and networking with other members of the Association. Associate members Todd Smith and Luke Kairys successfully completed the challenge and were awarded with a book and a ticket to the OALA 2012 Golf day!

We would like to thank the following companies who have supported their OALA Landscape Architectural Interns to attend the 2012 Conference & AGM:

**Corush Sunderland Wright**  
**Cosburn Nauboris Associates**  
**DIALOG**  
**G. O'Connor Consultants Inc.**  
**Harrington McAvan Ltd.**  
**HOK**  
**Kenneth J. Hoyle – Strategic Planning & Management**

**Lashley + Associates**  
**LandArtDesign LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS INC.**  
**NAK Design Group**  
**PMA Landscape Architects**  
**Stempski Kelly Associates Inc.**  
**Stephen Popovich Associates Inc.**  
**The MBTW Group**

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference and AGM next year, tentatively set for March 1, 2013 in Ottawa!

**\*NEW: Please have a look at the online gallery in the members area to view some great pictures from the day!**