

# 1868—2018: A 150-Year Timeline of the Profession of Landscape Architecture in Ontario and Beyond

150 Years of the Landscape  
Architecture Profession  
in Ontario

Celebrating 50 Years of  
the Ontario Association of  
Landscape Architects (OALA)

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## 1868

Profession of landscape architecture is established by designation of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and Calvert Vaux as landscape architects of Central Park in New York City. (They were named superintendents in 1857.)

## 1899

American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is founded in New York City.

## 1900

Frederick Todd becomes the first person in Canada to use the title “landscape architect.”

## 1903

Todd prepares and submits the first comprehensive report for the development of the National Capital Region.

## 1934

Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and Town Planners (now CSLA) is founded.

## 1955-1957

Dunnington-Grubb Landscape Architects designs University Avenue in Toronto.

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## 1964

The University of Guelph is incorporated (its history dates back to the founding of the Ontario Agricultural College in 1874).

Victor Chanasyk, OALA (Emeritus), FCSLA, the first landscape architect to be appointed to a Canadian university, establishes the first landscape architecture degree program in Canada—the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph, a four-year program.

## 1967

University of Toronto establishes four-year Bachelor of Landscape Architecture program.

## 1968

Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA) is founded. Council sets about defining an association of landscape architects, clarifying qualifications for membership, and getting people to join. Emiel van der Meulen, OALA (Emeritus), FCSLA, serves as first president of the OALA.

## 1969

Diploma in Landscape Architectural Technology Program is established at the Ryerson Polytechnic Institute Department of Architectural Science and Landscape Architecture in Toronto.

## 1970

LABash is founded by three landscape architecture students (James MacGregor from the University of Guelph and Ted Baker and Al Regehr from the University of Toronto). The first LABash conference is held at the University of Guelph, organized by students Tom Sparling, Don Chase, Jim Douglas, and Ross Stevens.

## 1973-1974

University of Guelph establishes three-year Masters of Landscape Architecture program.



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03

## 1975

The *OALA Review*, a small newsletter, is initiated by Nick Van Vliet, OALA (Emeritus), FCSLA.

## 1977-1979

OALA opens its first permanent office at 170 The Donway West, in Toronto, and hires its first full-time staff.

OALA Council works hard to establish a clear policy for a landscape architect to be on staff in each Ontario municipality. Mississauga is the first municipality to have a landscape architect (John Day) on staff, and also the first Ontario municipality to require a landscape architecture stamp on drawings.

OALA lobbies municipalities to require bonds to be posted for landscape work, to provide leverage to make sure landscapes are finished properly.

Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation is founded.

## 1981

OALA Promotions Committee, chaired by James Dobbin, OALA, FCSLA, and including members Ted Baker, OALA, FCSLA, and Patrick Li, OALA, FCSLA, works with graphic design firm Taylor Sprules to create the OALA logo.

## 1982

The Archival and Special Collections Department at the University of Guelph Library officially opens.

## 1984

On May 29, Bill Pr37, *An Act Respecting The Ontario Association of Landscape Architects* is given Royal Assent.

## 1985

PP&E (Professional Practice & Ethics) examination for membership is established and administered once a year by the OALA.

## 1985-1986

The year of the Grandfather Clause: upon passing the *OALA Act*, a one-year grace period for membership applications is opened and closed. More than 200 people exercise this option—far exceeding expectations.

## 1987

OALA Associate Members write first-ever entrance examination for full membership.

Arthur Timms is hired as the first full-time Executive Director of the OALA.

## 1989

OALA awards first Honorary Membership to Margaret Scrivener, Charles Simon, C.M. Switzer, N.R. Richards, Jean Pigott, and George C. Miller.

## 1993

LARE (Landscape Architecture Registration Examination) is adopted as the new examination for OALA full membership entrance (originally with 7 exam sections, later reduced to 5, then 4 exams).

## 1993-1994

OALA receives grant from Ontario Arts Council. A marketing video is developed, called *Design for the Environment*. This is a computer presentation on CD—an interactive computer program for public outreach, an innovative approach for the time.



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## 1996-1998

OALA supports the University of Toronto in maintaining their landscape architecture program; there is a real threat that it would be dissolved due to U of T budget cuts.

OALA Council works with a communications consultant to launch a comprehensive campaign on the value of urban cores.

## 1997

University of Toronto’s “Planning for 2000” is approved. The goals are to phase out undergraduate professional programs and replace with five new academic programs that would include the Master’s programs in architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design.

## 1998

A new project at the University of Guelph, known as the Centre for Canadian Landscape Architecture Archives, is established to enable access to historical documents related to the profession of landscape architecture.

## 1999

OALA initiates discussions about changing entrance requirements due to lack of new graduates joining the OALA.

CSLA launches *Landscapes/Paysages*, a quarterly publication.

## 2000

University of Guelph establishes the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, with four programs: Landscape Architecture (BLA and MLA); Rural Studies; Rural Planning and Development; and Capacity Development and Extension.

## 2002

Landscape Architectural Technology Program at Ryerson University is discontinued.

## 2003

OALA publishes the *OALA Business Guide*.

## 2004

Groundwork is set for the new entrance requirements for the OALA. Half the membership is ready to approve while the other half is strongly opposed.

## 2005

Changes to the bylaws that govern OALA membership entrance requirements are ratified and confirmed (by a majority of those voting) at a Special General Meeting of Members on November 28, 2005.

## 2006

*The Practice of Landscape Architecture in Canada*, written by James R. Taylor, OALA (Emeritus), FCSLA, is published.

## 2007

OALA Lay Councillor Lorraine Johnson is directed by Council to develop a new magazine to replace *Landscape Architects News Magazine*, published by the OALA. A member-led volunteer Editorial Board is struck and creates *Ground: Landscape Architect Quarterly*.

## 2008

The first issue of *Ground: Landscape Architect Quarterly* is published.

Successful defence in court of the OALA’s legal rights to self-governance as prescribed by *OALA Act*.

OALA’s 40th Anniversary AGM & Conference is held in Waterloo, with the theme “Realizing the Dream.”

## 2009

The Green Roof Bylaw is adopted by Toronto City Council, and Toronto becomes the first city in North America to have a bylaw that requires and governs the construction of green roofs on new developments. The work was led by Jane Welsh, OALA, FCSLA.

## 2010

OALA hosts Queen’s Park breakfast with MPPs in April (World Landscape Architecture Month).

## 2013

OALA signs CSLA National Reciprocity Agreement, which establishes the conditions under which a landscape architect/architecte paysagiste who is a Full Member in one Canadian jurisdiction (either regulated or non-regulated) is able to have his/her professional membership recognized in another Canadian jurisdiction (either regulated or non-regulated), thus promoting improved interprovincial reciprocity.



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## 2013-2014

The OALA study “Economic Impact of the Profession of Landscape Architecture in Ontario” is completed. The study highlights the significant contributions of landscape architecture to Ontario’s economy.

## 2014

With the support of the Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation’s Annual Grants Program, *Landscape Architecture in Canada*, a book by Ron Williams, AAPQ, FCSLA, is published.

## 2014

The OALA Marketing Committee works with graphic design firm Cyclone Creative to establish a refreshed OALA logo to enhance the visual brand identity of the Association.

## 2015

The Mandatory Continuing Education Program, as ratified by members at the 2014 AGM, begins the first three-year cycle (2015 through 2017).

## 2016

OALA formally engages with Brown & Cohen Communications & Public Affairs Inc., in February, to begin a more aggressive government and stakeholder relations campaign to raise awareness of the profession and support for an OALA Practice Act.

Pierre Bélanger, OALA, participates in the Venice Biennale with his project *Extraction*.

Cornelia Han Oberlander, BCSLA, FCSLA, receives first-ever Governor General’s Medal in Landscape Architecture, in September.

OALA implements an annual subscription option for *Ground* magazine to expand readership beyond OALA’s base audience.

*Ground* magazine expands its online presence with the launch of online articles posted in a searchable and sharable format.

## 2017

OALA meets with Attorney General Yasir Naqvi and with Ministry staff, in January, to build relations and to understand their position on an OALA Practice Act.

OALA hosts a Queen’s Park reception with MPPs in April.

OALA joins as a signatory to the IFLA Global Accord. It is an agreement on practice supported by individuals and organizations, governments and industries. The Accord establishes three guiding principles (Resilient, Transformative, Sustainable) for decision-making, and encourages collaboration across disciplines and geographic and national boundaries.

University of Toronto’s John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design moves to 1 Spadina Crescent.

## 2018

University of Guelph establishes the Landscape Architecture Alumni Association (LAAA).

OALA’s 50th anniversary is marked with a conference co-hosted with CSLA, “Moving Forward,” in Toronto. Also in commemoration of this year, the OALA’s Legacy Task Force, co-chaired by Sarah Culp, OALA, and Walter Kehm, OALA (Emeritus), FCSLA, coordinates videos and written interviews of prominent members and past presidents of the OALA, which are available on the OALA website: <https://oala.ca/profession/oala-at-50>.

Project to compile all of *Ground*’s past issues of articles, authors, and key summaries into a database that is accessible online is completed.

BIOS/ AINA BUDREVICS, CAE, IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OALA.

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NOTE: THIS TIMELINE IS NOT MEANT TO BE EXHAUSTIVE. IT BUILDS ON THE TIMELINE PUBLISHED IN GROUND 04. IF YOU HAVE ANY CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL [MAGAZINE@OALA.CA](mailto:MAGAZINE@OALA.CA).

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Ontario Association of  
Landscape Architects

**OALA**  
50<sup>TH</sup>