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General Contractors Association of Ottawa Newsletter

Winter 2008 edition

CCA Chair Raymond Brunet and President Michael Atkinson speak at GCAO Annual General Meeting

An interesting and informative Summary on the Canadian Construction Association's achievements for 2007 was delivered by Raymond Brunet P.Eng, MBA. Mr. Brunet is the Current chair of the CCA he's also President of Ed Brunet & Associates. Expanding on some of the issues was Michael Atkinson, President of the CCA. Mr. Atkinson recently celebrated 25 years of service in the CCA.



One of the main areas in which progress was reported was on the construction labor front. In anticipation of the retirement of a quarter million workers within the next 8 years, efforts to attract replacement workers to the industry are underway. The areas of focus are on youth awareness in choosing a trade, Immigration and recognizing skill sets that these people bring with them, as well as trade mobility within the country.

It was reported that the CCA was pivotal in helping secure \$33B to address the aging infrastructure. This represents \$25M in 2008 for the Ottawa Area through the gas tax refund and \$50M for 2009.

Another of their successes on the federal level, was to eliminate the

use of reverse auctions on government projects. They have also helped in the efforts to raise the small business tax threshold from \$200K to the new \$400K level. They are currently lobbying the Canadian Revenue Agency to recognize company service vehicles as non taxable benefits to the individuals assigned the use of these trucks and vans.

CCDC2 2008 will officially be published in February of this year and begin its transition replacing the current document.

In the works is another standard document which will outline accounting best practices for the construction community, it is expected to be endorsed sometime in March and will be available on line through the CCA's web site.



Two new categories for Gold seal certification have been introduced in 2007, one for safety coordinator and the other is a professional designation recognizing continued professional development within the industry. It was also reported that we can expect to see an increase in prequalification requirements necessitating gold seal certification, similar to the current PMI pre-qualification criteria.

The last item reported was an Ethic code which is being evolved

with emphasis on responsibility as it relates to both the community and environment as well as good business values.

AGM Highlights

This year's event was attended by 29 people representing 19 member firms, the CCA, OCA and construction media.

The President's remarks by Brian Morley captured the efforts and accomplishments our association has been engaged in. Issued at this event is the yearly report to membership, which summarizes the various portfolios pursued by the Association's Directors, some of these highlights are captured in this newsletter. This report will be distributed to all member firms not in attendance next week.

Membership

Membership for 2007 has increased to 61 members firms representing a range of small to large general contracting organizations. We welcomed two firms in 2007, Bondfield Construction and the LA Group. We also have one new applicant to start off the New Year, Vanbots Construction. Representation within the industry by the GCAO strives to address the individual as well as common interests of all parties.

If you come across new firms in the national capital region operating as ICI builders, let us know. In our ongoing pursuit to extend membership we will contact them.

Non Refundable Plan Deposits

The GCAO received notification from association members on seven projects over the past year. All projects were investigated and responded to as per the guidelines of the GCAO's policy. In all \$10,368.00 in refunds were collected this past year.

The Association's Finances and Budget

Francis Pomerleau as treasurer indicated that through 2007 the association's financial position has continued to improve. This is in part due to our strong membership as well as sponsorship for our social activities. The GCAO's net income for 2007 was \$9,847.82, increasing the member equity to \$30,464.46. It is anticipated that 2008 will achieve similar results.

The audited financial statements will be circulated to the membership with the minutes of the AGM.

It was decided that membership fees would not be increased for 2008.

GCAO Annual Reception

The Association's Annual Reception will be held once again at the Rideau Club located at 99 Bank Street. The event will take

place on Wednesday February 6th 2008 from 5.30 to 8.00 pm.

The guest list includes Owners, Architects, Consulting engineers, Government officials as well as our members.

We will be presenting the GCAO's 2007 Integrity & Ethics Award to Mr. Alex Rankin, Dip Arch., OAA, FRAIC, ARIBA, MRAI, RCA, MAAO of Griffiths Rankin Cook Architects in recognition of his fair and ethical treatment in dealing with the local construction industry.

Mr. Rankin was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and received his professional degree in London, England. As he came to Canada in 1965, his career developed on both sides of the Atlantic with several firms, and he became a founding partner with Griffiths Rankin Cook Architects in 1985.

His design awards include the Governor General's Medal (1982), the Ontario Association Award of Excellence (1990), and the City of Ottawa Conservation Award (1993).

His professional Association includes Chairman of the Ottawa Regional Society of Architects (ORSA), Council member and Vice-President of the OAA, and Vice-President of the RAIC. He also served as Registrar for the RAIC's College of Fellows, was the co founder and chair of the Canadian Design Build Institute.

The documentation and testimonials received supporting Alex Rankin's candidacy all resonate with words such as fair, honest, forthright, care, ethical standards, mentor, integrity, thoughtfulness, professionalism, trust and teamwork, all of which reflect the characteristics truly

representative of the essence this award strives to recognize.

Master's Insurance will be sponsoring our Annual reception once again this year. Master's have been in Ottawa for several years providing bonding and insurance to the construction industry. Their office is located in suite 102 of the OCA building.



Appointment of Directors



Back Row left to right
 Paul McDonald (McDonald Bros Construction)
 Hubie Splinter (Thomas Fuller Construction)
 Gary Kozak (Asco Construction)
 Wolf Schlesiger (Doaust Moore Const.)
 Francis Pomerleau (Herve Pomerleau Inc)
 Don Chutter (Executive Director)
 Front Row left to right
 Michael Assal (Taplen Construction)
 Brian Morley (Morley Hoppner Group)
 Shawn Lundy (MP Lundy Construction)
 Doug Burnside is absent from this photo

The current Board of Directors will remain as we have not had any resignations, the members of the 2007 board will continue to serve in 2008, although the various portfolios will be re-distributed shortly, you can refer to the last page of this newsletter for a current listing of directors and their associated responsibilities.

With Brian Morley transitioning to Past President, we welcome Doug Burnside as our new President. This will be Doug's second term as

President of the GCAO, and collectively he has served in different capacities on this board of directors for over 8 years.

Tendering Practices

This often difficult and time consuming portfolio was spearheaded by Doug Burnside as First Vice President in 2007; this is also where the true value in membership fees is realized.

This industry watch dog pursuit has created a preemptive effect in keeping consultant and owners reasonable in terms of tender calls, it also achieves successes through its active response to the current issues which continue to arise.

As we move into 2008, Gary Kosak as First Vice President will undertake the lead role for tendering practices. The success of his efforts will rely greatly on the cooperative efforts of the membership in terms of reporting issues early on so that enough time can be allocated in responding, as well as the committed support that members will act as a united group to ensure the message gets across.

BILDSCO update

BILDSCO was initiated by the GCAO in 1999, this joint committee's objective is to liaise with owners, architects and consulting engineers.

At the fall meeting it was decided that for now the primary focus of BILDSCO would be on the City of Ottawa's compliance procedures concerning undue delays in the

issuance of building permits and site plan approvals and excessive development charges. These are "common denominator" issues of concern to all BILDSCO member organizations. The approach to be taken is that these are mutual problems and that relief will not only benefit Owners and their Design Professionals and Contractors, but also serve to increase the City's tax revenues and economic well-being.

Specific examples of problems encountered in these areas were solicited in November and a draft presentation will be reviewed at the forthcoming BILDSCO meeting. Early action in the form of further in-inputs of case examples from GCAO members would be most welcome.



Michael Assal has greatly increased our association and members' internet presence through some innovative changes. This additional exposure is evident as we average 9500 hits a month, this translates into close to 400 visits per month to our web site from different parties.

Another improvement made in 2007 was public access to the association's newsletters.

(OVBD) Ottawa Valley Bid Depository

Only a small number of projects are being closed through the OVBD, PWGSC being one of the few owners using the service.

The OVBD is currently reviewing the work-scope definition guidelines for Mechanical and Plumbing trades to establish a clearer local standard for future bid closings in Ottawa.

Building Information Modeling (BIM)

BIM is described as an object-oriented building development tool that utilizes 5-D modeling concepts, the 4th and 5th dimensions correspond to time and costs.

It is anticipated that this technology will become more commonplace in project delivery as it can effectively communicate project details, spatial relationships, potential interference as well as operational issues to all parties.

BIM can be used to demonstrate the entire building lifecycle including the processes of construction and facility operation. Quantities and shared properties of materials can easily be extracted. Scopes of work can be isolated and defined.

BIM can be utilized to bridge the information loss associated with handing a project from a design team, to the construction team and to the building owner/operator, it allows each group to add to and reference back to all information they acquire during their period of contribution.

It is tentatively planned to have a BIM presentation at the GCAO's Semi-Annual General Meeting

2008 Board members and Mandates

1. Tendering practices

Doug Burnside (chair), Brian Morley, Francis Pomerleau, Paul McDonald, Gary Kozak

2. Membership

Wolf Schlesiger

3. Communications

Paul McDonald

4. Entertainment

Hubie Splinter

5. Nominating Committee

Brian Morley

6. Non-Refundable Deposits

Sean Lundy

7. Web Site

Michael Assal

8. BILDCO – Ottawa

Francis Pomerleau, Brian Morley, Doug Burnside, Gary Kozak

9. OVBD Liaison

Michael Assal, Paul McDonald

Past President Brian Morley

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