



WWW.GCAOTTAWA.COM

General Contractors Association of Ottawa Newsletter

Summer 2008

GCAO Annual Golf Day

The Annual Golf Day was held on Friday, May 30, 2008 at Montebello. We played an 18-hole round in the morning and followed this with a delicious BBQ lunch. The weather was perfect and the course was in pristine shape. A record 39 golfers from 16 member companies attended the event.

The "Closest to the Pin" award went to Bob Cau of Comac Construction Ltd. Our president, Doug Burnside, had a blistering drive off the 18th tee to win "Longest Drive" honours. Best score of the day went to Bob Warner of SNC Lavalin Profac, who joined us as a guest of F. Trottier Construction Ltd. Bob shot a 78. The Association's "Most Honest Golfer" was awarded to none other than your Entertainment Director, Sean Lundy, who shot a 115.

2008 SAGM

The GCAO conducted our Semi Annual General Meeting on Thursday, June 12th to update the members on the activities of the Association. We also had a guest speaker, Arol Wolford of Reed Construction Data, who made a presentation on Building Information Modelling (BIM). There was strong interest displayed by the membership present in the emerging technology and most were keen to understand the practicalities of its use. Initially used in manufacturing, the use of the technology in the U.S. construction sector is accelerating, particularly in complex design-build projects. Mr. Wolford stated that BIM adoption by the industry is certain. The only question is how quickly will it happen, and to what extent. A full summary of Mr. Wolford's remarks can be found in

the SAGM Minutes, previously distributed to the membership.

Change in Board of Directors

Unfortunately we have had to accept the resignation from our board of directors of Mr. Wolf Schlesiger. Wolf is leaving Daoust Construction to work with a mining company out of Toronto. Mr. Spencer Hagan from PCL Construction will be joining the board immediately and will assume the role of Secretary vacated by Wolf Schlesiger.

CCDC Developments

The long-awaited *CCDC 2 - 2008 Stipulated Price Contract* has finally been launched in February and the GCAO is already working to promote the use of this document by public and private owners and their consultants.

The contract form, along with the accompanying *CCDC 20 - 2008 Guide to the Use of CCDC 2 - 2008 Stipulated Price Contract* and the new *CCDC 41 - 2008 CCDC Insurance Requirements* can be downloaded from www.ccdc.org.

Membership

The GCAO is pleased to announce that Vanbots Construction has been accepted as a new member.

The current number of member firms is 61 members representing all of the prominent general contractors in the Ottawa area. The GCAO can speak with authority when addressing tendering practices, and when voicing our concerns with Clients, Designers, and Owners.

This year a number of non-member contractors active in the Ottawa region have been contacted to encourage their joining our association. We continue to urge all

member firms to refer competing non-member firms for membership to the membership committee. All members benefit when our industry can speak with a single voice.

Tendering Practices Report

Addressing unfair tendering practices is a key responsibility of the GCAO and it is where your membership provides you the most value. The Tendering Practices Committee's main endeavor is to ensure adherence of the standard and recognized fair tendering practices in the industry. We also strive to enforce the execution of all the other various CCDC documents pertaining to tendering procedures.

Recent Issues:

Johnstown Ethanol Plant

SNC Lavalin: Excessive number of Supplementary General Conditions (SGCs) and unit rate submission requirements in the tender form.

The CCA Standard Practices Committee decided at its last meeting to pursue with SNC Lavalin and Greenfield Ethanol the wholesale revision of its CCA 17 Contract specified by them for the various bid packages.

New Ottawa Rotary Home

MHPM Project Managers Inc.: Skewed (SGCs), low mark-ups. Through the coordinated action of the GCAO with the members who participated in the bidding, most of the SGCs were not applied."

Stittsville Arena

City of Ottawa: Liquidated Damages Clause used. The City has agreed to meet with the GCAO executive to discuss the issue.

Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital

Onerous Owner's privilege clause used that inadequately establishes contract award criteria and their priority. The association's concerns were all addressed in an addendum.

Carleton University

Positive progress has been made in the on-going discussions between Carleton, OGCA and GCAO. The University has undertaken to use CCDC 2--2008 with few SGCs on tender calls this fall.

BILDSCO

An important "Objective" in the GCAO's charter is "To liaise with owners, architects and consulting engineers". "BILDSCO" is the acronym for "Building Industry Liaison – Designers, Contractors, and Owners". It is a Joint Committee comprised of representatives of the Ottawa Regional Society of Architects, the General Contractors Association of Ottawa, the Ottawa Chapters of the Consulting Engineers of Ontario, the Building Owners and Managers Association and the International Facilities Management Association, and Public Works and Government Services Canada. BILDSCO was initiated by GCAO in 1999. Public Works and Government Services Canada and the Ontario Architects Association are represented by liaison members on BILDSCO

GCAO BILDSCO delegates are Doug Burnside and Brian Morley, John Moore of J.L. Richards representing Consulting Engineers, Alex Rankin representing ORSA, and Dean Karakasis of the Building Owners and Managers Association. This organization meets regularly to strategize and prioritize our presentation in order that we make best use of our time with the Mayor and these key individuals.

The role the GCAO plays in BILDSCO and the actual focus of BILDSCO changed last year under the persistence of Brian Morley and our

President, Doug Burnside. Due to the lack of momentum, our recommendation at that time was to revise the focus, such that we would simply identify a particular situation or problem of interest for each of the members of BILDSCO, and as of our last meeting, an Ontario Architects Association liaison in Mr. Vladimir Popovic, of the firm Popovic Routier Architects.

The current BILDSCO focus is to confront the City of Ottawa with the problems associated with the procurement of Site Plan Agreements and Building Permits. BILDSCO met face to face with the Mayor and key officials from the City of Ottawa on June 17, 2008 and held discussions on the areas of concern leading to an agreement to establish a "Single Designated Point of Contact" for each Site Plan Application at a meeting in July. A 5-man BILDSCO committee followed up with this high-level agreement with a proposed "Scope of Work and Responsibilities" for the Designated Point of Contact. It was well received and the City is appointing a facilitator for the next session, to be held in August. The agenda for it will also include the procedures related to the issue of Building Permits.

While the joint discussions with the City are now a priority, there are other ongoing efforts. One of these will be to look into further BILDSCO-sponsored forums. Also, the series of Letters to Owners continues to be distributed. The latest, in July, encouraged them to use the new CCDC 2-2008 contract form. Another in draft form recommends the early release of lien holdbacks related to completed portions of the work.

Non Refundable Plan Deposits

The GCAO continues to provide and manage the popular non-refundable deposit fund. Notification from association members was received on a number of projects in recent months. All projects were investigated and responded to as

per the guidelines of the GCAO's policy. Although the fund is practical, the GCAO is active in pressing owners of the industry norm to pay for bid documents or use refundable deposits.

The Association's Finances

Francis Pomerleau, indicated that through the first half of 2008, the association's financial position has continued to improve. This is in part due to our strong membership as sponsorship for our social activities. The GCAO's projected income for 2008 is approximately \$12,100, and the results as of 30 Jun 08 (Unaudited) indicate that we are well on target.

(OVBD) Ottawa Valley Bid Depository

Effective July 1st, new Treasury Board Bid Depository Rules came into effect for federal projects. These included the stipulation that the estimated value of the project be over \$500,000 and that at least two trades closing through the bid depository be valued at over \$200,000. Also, the Rules state that there can be no limitation of liability on the part of the Bid Depository. Only a small number of projects are being closed through the OVBD, PWGSC being one of the few owners using the service.

On the Lighter Side.....

Definitions:

Contractor: A gambler who never gets to shuffle, cut or deal!

Bid Opening: A poker game in which the losing hand wins.

Low Bidder: A contractor who is wondering what he left out.

Architect's Estimate: The cost of construction in Heaven.

Project Manager: The conductor of an orchestra in which every musician is in a different union.

Delayed Payment: A tournament applied at the pockets.

Completion Date: The point at which liquidated damages begin.

Liquidated Damages: A penalty for failing to achieve the impossible.

2008 Board Members and Mandates



Back Row Left to Right: Don Chutter, Paul McDonald, Hubie Splinter, Gary Kozak, Wolf Schlesiger, Sean Lundy, Michael Assal **Front Row Left to Right:** Brian Morley, Doug Burnside Francis Pomerleau and Spencer Hagan are absent from this photo

1. Tendering Practices

Gary Kozak (chair), Doug Burnside, Brian Morley, Michael Assal, Paul McDonald

2. Membership

Brian Morley

3. Communications

Michael Assal

4. Entertainment

Hubie Splinter, Sean Lundy

5. Nominating Committee

Brian Morley

6. Non-Refundable Deposits

Hubie Splinter

7. Web Site

Paul McDonald

8. BILDCO – Ottawa

Michael Assal, Brian Morley, Doug Burnside, Gary Kozak

9. OVBD Liaison

Paul McDonald

Past President, Brian Morley

Morley Hoppner Group Inc.

P 613-831-5490

F 613-831-0067

E bdmorley@morleyhoppner.com

President, Doug Burnside

Dolyn Developments

P 613-224-7268

F 613-224-0579

E doug@dolyn.com

Treasurer & CCA Liaison Director, Francis Pomerleau

Pomerleau Construction

P. 613 244-4323

F. 613 244-4327

E. francis.pomerleau@pomerleau.ca

First Vice President & OGCA Liason, Gary Kozak

ASCO Construction Ltd.

P 613 224-1381

F 613 224-1849

E gary.kozak@ascoconstruction.com

Second Vice President, Michael Assal

Taplen Construction Inc.

P 613 521-2550

F 613 521-8945

E massal@taplenconstruction.com

Secretary, Spencer Hagan

PCL Constructors Canada Inc.

P 613 228-5366

F 613 225-6176

E SDHagan@pcl.com

Director, Paul McDonald

McDonald Brothers Construction

P 613 831-6223

F 613 831-5528

E paul@mbconstruction.ca

Director, Hubie Splinter

Fuller Construction

P 613 820-6000

F 613 829-7296

E hsplinter@fuller.ca

Director, Sean Lundy

Lundy Construction

P 613 233-8484

F 613 231-3606

E sean@mplundy.com

Executive Director, Don Chutter

P 613-745-4786

F 613-745-3516

E sdchutter@rogers.com

OCA Liaison Director

Dean Drevniok

Frecon Construction

P 613-445-2944

F 613-445-3652

E dean_drevniok@frecon.ca

General Contractor's Association of Ottawa

196 Bronson Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario

K1R 6H4

P 613 239-4525

F 613 755-0032

E admin@gcaottawa.ca

editor Michael Assal