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General Contractors Association of Ottawa Newsletter

Winter 2009

GCAO CALENDAR

27 Feb 09: Next Board of Directors Meeting

10 June 09: GCAO Semi-Annual General Meeting

TBD 09: GCAO Annual Golf Day

If you have an issue you wish to bring to the Board's attention, please contact the appropriate director. See the full list of directors and portfolios at the end of this newsletter.

Meet Our New President

Gary is a Westerner who relocated to Ottawa in 1990 but subsequently spent a decade in the Arctic with Defence Construction and then as General Manager, Construction, for the Inuvialuit Development Corp. Returning to Ottawa to warm up, he completed several projects for Kanata Research Park and joined ASCO Construction Ltd. as District Manager for Eastern Ontario in 2003. He became director of the GCAO in 2006 and last year headed its Tendering Practices activities. Gary is also a director of the OGCA and, along the way, has gained his P. Eng., GSC and PMP designations.

.....and Two New Directors

Joining the GCAO Board this year are Shawn Argue of Baird Construction Management Ltd. and Anders Persson of Aecon Buildings Ottawa. Welcome aboard!

Hon. John Baird and 125 Other Guests Attend GCAO Reception

The Association's Annual Reception took place on Wednesday February 4th 2009 from 5:30 to 8.00 pm and was held at the Rideau Club. Attendees included Owners, Architects, Consulting Engineers, Government Officials and GCAO members. Our current President Gary Kozak extended a warm welcome to all attendees.



Terry Michalakos of Masters Insurance was graciously thanked for their continued generous sponsorship of the Annual Reception. Masters 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.

Ron Barrie Acclaimed as GCAO Integrity & Ethics Award Winner



Ron Barrie, P. Eng., recently retired Senior Project Manager with PCL Constructors in Ottawa, was presented with the

Association's "most prestigious award" at the Annual Reception. His nomination was supported by a sheaf of testimonial letters from Owners, Designers and Trade Contractors who lauded him for his "management style, team leadership, highest ethical standards and impeccable integrity".

Ron's 47-year construction career included many Ottawa landmarks such as the World Exchange Plaza, Cite Collegiale, Justice HQ, Nortel Palladium I and II, the Airport Passenger Terminal, Laurier Tache Garage and the Victoria Museum. Industry service activities included the development of a bursary fund for construction students, numerous presentations on Construction Careers, and his work as a Board member of the ACQ Outaouais. Congratulations Ron!

Warning! Allow for Increased Waste Management Costs in Your Estimates

That was the main message given by guest speakers Terry Wagner and Cory Smith of R. W. Tomlinson and Brendan Harrigan of DST Consulting Engineers at the GCAO Annual Meeting. They stressed that new Waste Management requirements were much more expensive than tipping fees but were being applied more and more by mandatory regulations for most projects (for sites over 2000 m²) and by LEED specifications.

It there behooved General Contractors to be knowledgeable about which waste materials were salvageable; which could be segregated on-site or placed in a co-mingled container; and the preparation of a Waste Audit and Waste Reduction Work Plan prior to construction and of a Final Waste Audit. More stringent enforcement of the regulations and increased imposition of fines are expected. Further details were included in the AGM Minutes.

Future Guest Speakers for SAGM/AGM

If there is a particular topic or speaker that you would like to see at future events please let us know.

GCAO Proposed Project Awards Program

You should have received a fax detailing a proposed General Contractor Awards Program. Please take a minute to read this and provide your feedback as requested. Anyone requiring additional information should contact Gary Kozak

Are Your Competitors Members of the GCAO?

The importance of GCAO representing all of the prominent general contractors in Ottawa and the surrounding region is vital; it enables your association to speak with authority when addressing tendering practices and other concerns with Owners and Designers.

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.**

Hunt Club Riverside Community Centre

The GCAO, upon request from several members, wrote a letter to the City of Ottawa concerning problems with their hybrid lump sum tender/CCA 5 request in the Construction Management RFP for the Hunt Club Riverside Community Centre. As requested, an addendum was issued that deleted the requirement to include sub-trade prices in the proposals. **GCAO Gets Results!**

Subtrade Contract Standards You Will Start to See These Soon

As was reported in a previous newsletter, Doug Burnside was working with the OCA Standard Practices Committee to help establish standard contractual inclusions and exclusions for the Prime Mechanical, HVAC, Plumbing, Sprinkler and Electrical trade contracts. The Plumbing (Piping), HVAC and Sprinkler (Fire Protection) trade scopes have been completed and can be viewed on the OCA's website under resources. Thanks to Doug for providing a General Contractor's viewpoint to these standards.

Substantial Completion Application Recommended Procedures

You are at or near the end of your project and would like to publish your substantial completion in the Daily Commercial News, but you cannot agree with the payment certifier that your project is substantially complete. What do you do? We recommend using OAA/OGCA Document 100 – Recommended Procedures Concerning Substantial

Performance of Construction Contracts and Completion Take-Over of Projects. This is a complete step by step document to walk both the parties through this process. A copy of this can be downloaded here [http://www.oaa.on.ca/client/oaa/OAAHome.nsf/object/OGCA/\\$file/Document+100+January+31+2008.pdf](http://www.oaa.on.ca/client/oaa/OAAHome.nsf/object/OGCA/$file/Document+100+January+31+2008.pdf) or contact the GCAO for additional information. Incidentally, GRC Architects advise that General Contractors all too often confuse Substantial Completion and Occupancy Certificates. They're different!

Special Thanks to Richard Bosman of BBS Construction

Richard and BBS Construction, over the past several years, have generously donated their time to complete the audit of the finances of the Association. Thanks to BBS Construction for all of their time and effort.

Request for New Auditor

Unfortunately BBS will not be able to continue complete this task. We will be looking for a new volunteer from our membership to audit the financial statements. Please let us know if you are willing to perform this task.

On the Lighter Side.....

PONTIFICUS



"WE ARE OUR OWN WORST ENEMIES A LOT OF THE TIME BUT I STILL BLAME THE SUBCONTRACTORS."

www.newwritandwisdom.com

Agon E. George

2009 Board Members and Mandates



Back Row Left to Right: Don Chutter, Anders Persson, Hubie Splinter, Sean Lundy, Spencer Hagan, Paul McDonald, **Front Row Left to Right:** Michael Assal, Gary Kozak, Doug Burnside. Absent from this Photo is Shawn Argue

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Mandates

1. **Tendering Practices** - Michael Assal (chair), Gary Kozak, Hubie Splinter,
2. **Membership** - Doug Burnside
3. **Communications** - Hubie Splinter
4. **Entertainment** - Spencer Hagan (chair), Sean Lundy
5. **Nominating Committee** - Doug Burnside
6. **Non-Refundable Deposits** - Anders Persson
7. **Web Site** - Sean Lundy
8. **BILDCO – Ottawa** - Gary Kozak, Doug Burnside, Michael Assal, Hubie Splinter
9. **OVBD Liaison** - Anders Persson
10. **Integrity and Ethics Award** - Gary Kozak