



General Contractors Association of Ottawa Newsletter

Striving for Excellence • Integrity • Ethics

GCAO Calendar:

CCDC Seminar on the
New Construction
Management
Contracts
Wednesday,
November 10th - 1:00
to 5:00 p.m.
OCA Education Center
- 196 Bronson Avenue

Upcoming Board Meetings:

Friday, October 29
Friday, November 26
Friday, December 17

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

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Annual GCAO Golf Day

This year's annual GCAO Golf Day, held on Friday, June 25, saw eight foursomes in attendance and enjoying the wonderful weather at the Marshes Golf Club that day.

The club was very gracious in attending to the needs of the tournament participants.

Several awards were handed out by the association to members.

A BBQ lunch was enjoyed by all. We thank all those member firms for their participation in this annual mixer. It creates a great atmosphere to meet and engage both board members and peers alike.



Most Honest Team: Shawn Argue presenting to Gary Kozak and Michael Assal (Gerald Beuman not shown)



Longest Drive: Shawn presents trophy to Michael Nicolini



Lowest Team Score: (l-r) Rob MacGowan, Gord Fitzpatrick, Randa McTavish, Spencer Hagan (also Closest to the Pin)

Semi-Annual General Meeting

The association took the opportunity to combine venues this summer in bringing the Semi-Annual General Meeting to the Marshes Golf Club to coincide with our annual golf event on June 25th.

The event was held in the Primrose Room following golf action out on the course. The President's and other Mandate Reports were given by the board members. In addition to the regular business session, the program included a detailed Canadian Construction Association (CCA) liaison report (prepared by Serge

Massicotte and presented by GCAO President Michael Assal) discussing the activities and focus of the CCA during this year. A major CCA initiative, the Construction Industry Summit brought a wide variety of stakeholders together.

At the summit, the General Contractor Council reviewed drafts of both the CCDC 14 and 15 documents (Design Build Contract and Design Builder Consultant Agreement). Concerns regarding the use of an Owner's Advisor as being a party to the contract as well as definitions for both

Work and Design Services, were forwarded to the CCDC for review. Another topic for discussion was the poor quality and lack of coordination of Bid Documents. Contractor liability with respect to LEED certification was also reviewed and warning issued relating to the acceptance of risk surrounding both the attainment of LEED points and the tying of final payment to LEED certification. The CCA's Standard Practices Committee is to develop recommended practices in this area.

Tendering Practices

One of the most important responsibilities the association contributes to its membership is the promotion of fair and equitable tendering procedures. The continuous implementation of onerous Supplementary General Conditions (SGC's) has required the constant vigilance of the Tendering Practices Committee in the preparation of often exhaustive reviews of front end tender documents. The pressure did not let off this summer, and the board was very active in researching and advising our members with respect to these onerous SGC's.

One key area of focus has been tenders initiated by our local school boards. The association has undertaken, beginning with the Ottawa Catholic School Board (and

specifically a tender for the Kanata North Catholic Elementary School), an intensive SGC review process. The end result was an addendum deleting 15 pages of the more critical SGCs. It is anticipated that the follow-up meeting will result in a further reduction of similar size.

This continued with negotiations regarding the SGC's for St. Michael Catholic High School and St. Thomas Catholic High School. Significant action in removing many of the onerous SGC's took place.

In all cases the association advocates the use of unamended CCDC or CCA documentation as being fair and equitable forms of agreement, ones exhaustively developed with the input of industry representatives – owners,

architects and contractors.

Recent successes in the area of SGC's include tenders for the Ottawa Withdrawal Management Centre, whereby association requests for significant changes have been subsequently implemented, and in changing the SGC's for the Soccer Field at Hillcrest High School.

A decision is pending concerning the GCAO's representations in the form of a 13-page letter to the Pembroke Catholic School Board concerning its 40 pages of SGCs for a school at Petawawa.

The GCAO is still actively working on behalf of its members with both clients and client representatives to cease the practice of combining prequalification responses and tender forms into a single submission.

Non-Refundable Deposits Program

The objective of this program is to direct the cost of tender document production to the appropriate party (the owner), and to ensure that

tender documents are recycled and redistributed to the successful contractor. Up until mid September, the NRDP program had processed a

total of ten tender calls in which the rebates to bidders totaled over \$30,000.

BILDCO Ottawa

The GCAO provides its members with representation on several industry - related organizations, one of which is a building industry liaison called BILDCO Ottawa.

This organization brings concerns of its multi-disciplinary members to bear upon all aspects of the industry for constructive dialogue affecting wider industry stakeholders.

Such varied topics as City of Ottawa Site Plan Approval procedures, alternative contracting methods and the role of project management firms are currently being dealt with at these meetings.



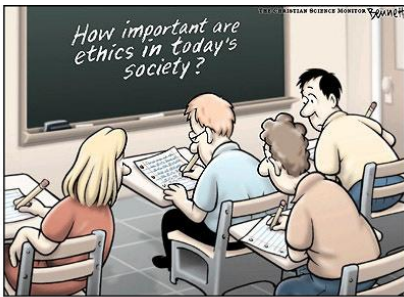
Position Paper: Project Management Firms

The association took the opportunity to address a significant and topical industry concern. GCAO President Michael Assal authored an extensive position statement on behalf of the association in order to initiate dialogue (and establish several action steps) surrounding

four specific areas of concern in project management firm practices. The paper itself has received strong response and a good deal of support especially as it relates to excessive Supplementary General Conditions provisions.

We would encourage member firms to familiarize themselves with this position paper (on the GCAO web site) and follow upcoming discussions ensuing from the joint OCA round table meeting with project management firms.

Integrity & Ethics Award



Just a reminder to members; please submit your nominations for the annual Integrity & Ethics Award as soon as possible. Submissions should be sent to Michael Assal, at massal@taplenconstruction.com

This award recognizes individuals who have consistently displayed a

high standard of integrity and ethics in dealing with local construction industry participants, including owners, designers, consultants, contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and fellow employees.

The winner for 2009 was Mike Rushton, Director of the Department of

Physical Resources at Algonquin College.

On another related front, discussions regarding the form and implementation of a proposed GCAO Project Awards Program are nearing completion. Look for details, coming soon in a special bulletin.

Welcome to New Members

The Association would like to welcome two new members, namely **Louis W. Bray Construction Ltd** (Michael Bray) and

AI Langman Construction 1998 Inc. (Tim Porter). We encourage them to avail themselves of the many benefits of membership.



Upcoming Events

CCDC Seminar on the New Construction Management Contracts
Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010, 1-5 PM

OCA Education Center,
196 Bronson Avenue

Construction Management (CM) form of project

delivery takes a team approach to the construction process. The concept joins the Owner, Consultant and Contractor in a team whose objective is to deliver the project with emphasis on time, budget and constructability.

To Register - Go to www.ccdc.org/events
For inquiries, please contact info@ccdc.org or 613-236-9455 ext 436.

- **Course Duration:** 4 hours
- **Member Price:** \$390.00

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Front row (left to right):
Sean Lundy, Michael Assal, Michael Nicolini
Back row (left to right):
Joshua Laginski, Shawn Argue, Gary Kozak,
Spencer Hagan, Don Chutter
(not pictured: Hubie Splinter, Paul McDonald)

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