



# General Contractors Association of Ottawa Newsletter

**Striving for Excellence • Integrity • Ethics**

**GCAO Calendar:**

**Annual Reception:**

February 24, 2011  
taking place at:  
Rideau Club  
99 Bank Street  
Ottawa, Ontario

**Upcoming Board Meetings:**

Friday, February 25  
Friday, March 25  
Friday April 29

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.

**Inside:**

- GCAO Project Awards (from p.1)
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## Annual General Meeting

The GCAO Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at the Hampton Inn in Ottawa.

The evening began with the President's Welcome

by outgoing President Michael Assal, and continued with the GCAO Business Session. Incoming President's Remarks were made by Hubie Splinter, who also presented a plaque of

appreciation to outgoing President Michael Assal.

The inaugural GCAO Project Awards were presented to the winners. See article below for details!

*Photo credits on pages 1 & 2 are due to Ottawa Construction News*

## GCAO Project Awards

The 1st Annual GCAO Project Awards were presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Entries for the 2010 year were eligible under the following categories: the Don Chutter Meritorious Achievement Award, as well as value-graduated Awards of Excellence for both Buildings and Infrastructure work. The submissions were judged by a panel of eminently qualified local professionals, consisting of: John Westeinde

(construction), Ewen Marjerrison of Genivar (engineering), Alex Rankin of GRC Architects (architecture), and Claudio Brun del Re of the University of Ottawa (ownership).

**Don Chutter Meritorious Achievement Award**

The Don Chutter Meritorious Achievement Award was presented to EllisDon Corporation for the Montfort Hospital project. This award is for the submission that best demonstrates the

contribution of General Contracting to our quality of life in Ottawa. The project involved extensive renovations and an addition to the bilingual hospital.



*Don Chutter (right) presenting the Don Chutter Meritorious Achievement Award to Ken Disley of EllisDon*

**GCAO Project Awards continued on p.2**

## Meet our New President

Hubie Splinter is GCAO's new President, after serving as Vice President in 2010.

Hubie – also known as Hubert J. Splinter – joined the GCAO Board in 2007 and has held the portfolios for Tendering Practices, Communications, Non-Refundable 'Deposit'

Policy, and Entertainment. In addition, he has acted as a GCAO representative on BILDCO-Ottawa for two years.

This diversified 'apprenticeship' has prepared him well to take on the presidency.

**Meet our New President continued on p.2**



## GCAO Project Awards (from p.1)

### **Awards of Excellence**

Six submissions were received in the Buildings category; no submissions were received for the Industrial category.

Aecon Buildings received the Award of Excellence for buildings valued under \$15 million for the Ottawa Central Ambulance Communications Centre. This design-build project is a combination of renovations and new

construction and functions as the city's state-of-the-art ambulance 911 centre.

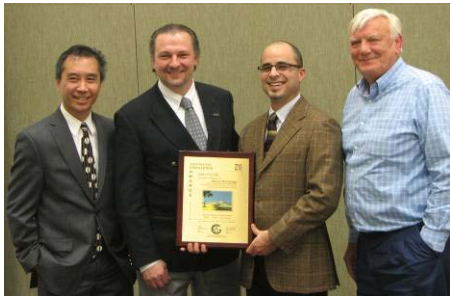
PCL Constructors Canada received the Award of Excellence for buildings valued over \$15 million for the multi-phase Victoria Memorial Museum Building Rehabilitation project. This heritage building, which houses the Canadian Museum of Nature, was completely renovated, including new

foundations for a new internal steel skeleton for seismic reinforcing, as well as a 2,600 square metre addition.

Panel board submissions from all the award entrants will be displayed at the upcoming Annual Reception at the Rideau Club.

*Photo credits on pages 1 & 2 are due to Ottawa Construction News*

### **Award of Excellence: Buildings Valued Under \$15 million**



#### **Awarded to Aecon Buildings**

(L-R): Alex Leung (GRC Architects); Anders Persson (Aecon Buildings); Michael Assal (GCAO); Lew Triemstra (Aecon Buildings)

### **Award of Excellence: Buildings Valued Over \$15 million**



#### **Awarded to PCL Constructors Canada**

(L-R): Maureen Dougan (Canadian Museum of Nature); Irvin Heiber (PCL Constructors); Michael Assal (GCAO); Barry Padolsky (PKG Joint Venture Architects); Maria Somjen (Public Works & Government Services Canada)

### **Don Chutter Meritorious Achievement Award**



#### **Awarded to EllisDon Corporation**

(L-R): Ken Disley (EllisDon); Michael Assal (GCAO); Dave Haley (EllisDon)

## Meet our New President (from p.1)

And, as he said upon assuming the office, "I have had the pleasure of learning how important the GCAO is to its members and have heard many times that it gives the best value for the association dollar."

Hubie graduated in 1987 from Algonquin College in Construction Engineering Technology and entered

the industry as an estimator and project coordinator. His longest stint (16 years) was with Fuller Construction, where his last 3 years were served as Vice-President, Construction. He joined Graebeck Construction this year as Vice-President.

Hubie enjoys many different sports and plays

hockey, baseball, golf, skis, bikes, and fishes. He and his wife have three children and he coaches his eldest son's hockey team. Family life comes naturally – his parents had seven children.

Hubie can be reached at 613-727-8939 or [hubie@graebeck.com](mailto:hubie@graebeck.com).

## 2011 and 2012 Board of Directors Positions

Welcome to Jim Tsarouhas of TOFCON Construction, newest Director on the GCAO Board of Directors. Thank you Jim for stepping forward to fill one of two Director vacancies.

Director Paul McDonald has graciously agreed to stay on for one more term – thank you Paul!

Although both vacancies have been filled for 2011, **two more Directors will be needed in 2012.**

Members interested in serving on the GCAO Board of Directors next year should so advise the Nominating Committee Chairman Michael Assal - [massal@taplenconstruction.com](mailto:massal@taplenconstruction.com).

Nominations should be supported by two voting members.

Serving on the Board is a means of paying back something to the industry. It involves attending monthly meetings and being responsible for one or more mandated association portfolios. It also is an educational experience marked by good fellowship.

## Tendering Practices

Each successive year in recent times has resulted in a marked increase in the number of tendering practices issues brought to our attention by member firms. The actions initiated, and results forthcoming, have been reported to membership incrementally in the previous GCAO newsletters as well as collectively in the GCAO Annual Report to the Membership.

One achievement that was not put to print due to its late-breaking nature

relates to the stipulated liquidated damages for the City of Ottawa's Dechlorination Facility at ROPEC.

The Tendering Practices Committee took the opportunity to meet with a City of Ottawa infrastructure branch representative to discuss the concerns of both sides in connection with stipulated liquidated damages, among other items. Following our discussions, an addendum was issued which included provisions

to delete the liquidated damages clause - a step which both sides agreed would serve to enhance bidder participation and provide more precise tender pricing.

It was also agreed that this dialogue with the City be continued on a regular quarterly basis to assist both the City and GCAO members in establishing tenable tendering conditions. Also, unit prices and cost breakdown figures were deferred until 24 hours after tenders closed.

## Upcoming Events

**GCAO Annual Reception**  
February 24, 2011  
Rideau Club  
99 Bank Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario  
5:30 – 8:00 PM

Dress: Business Attire  
(Jacket and Collared Shirt Required)

From past years, this event has proven to be a highly effective forum for

interaction with owners, politicians, architects, consultants, insurance groups, and others. We strongly encourage GCAO members to **make good use of this opportunity** to make connections – it's for the benefit of your business!

The Recipient of the annual **Integrity and Ethics Award** will be

awarded at the annual reception. 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.



## Co-op Program – Hire a Student!

The University of Ottawa's co-operative education programs rely on the support of experts in the field of construction and engineering to provide work-term opportunities for our students. Many organizations benefit from the skill and drive of co-op students while providing them with an outstanding learning experience. This summer there is an unprecedented number of engineering students to place in both 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> work terms. Please consider hiring a co-op student!

Simply send a short job description via e-mail to [carolynb@uottawa.ca](mailto:carolynb@uottawa.ca) or call Carolyn Robertson at 613-562-5800 x3019.

NOTE: The Co-operative Education Tax Credit (CETC) is a refundable tax credit of up to \$3,000, and is available to employers who hire students enrolled in a co-operative education program at an Ontario university or college...

see <http://www.rev.gov.on.ca/en/credit/cetc/> for more.

## GCAO Board Members

### President

Hubie Splinter  
T: 613-727-8939 / F: 613-727-4297  
[hubie@graebeck.com](mailto:hubie@graebeck.com)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Spencer Hagan  
T: 613-225-6130 / F: 613-225-6176  
[sdhagan@pcl.com](mailto:sdhagan@pcl.com)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Shawn Argue  
T: 613-831-7044 / F: 613-831-6344  
[shawn@bairdconstruction.ca](mailto:shawn@bairdconstruction.ca)

### Past President

Michael Assal  
T: 613-521-2550 / F: 613-521-8945  
[massal@taplenconstruction.com](mailto:massal@taplenconstruction.com)

### Treasurer

Paul McDonald  
T: 613-831-6223 / F: 613-831-5528  
[paul@mbconstruction.ca](mailto:paul@mbconstruction.ca)

### Secretary

Michael Nicolini  
T: 613-745-0006 / F: 613-745-8320  
[michael@nicolini.ca](mailto:michael@nicolini.ca)

### Director

Sean Lundy  
T: 613-233-8484 / F: 613-231-3606  
[sean@mplundy.com](mailto:sean@mplundy.com)

### Director

Joshua Laginski  
T: 613-445-2944 / F: 613-445-3652  
[josh@frecon.ca](mailto:josh@frecon.ca)

### Director

Jim Tsarouhas  
T: 613-224-3714 / F: 613-224-3630  
[jjmt@tofcon.ca](mailto:jjmt@tofcon.ca)

### Executive Director

Don Chutter  
T: 613-745-4786 / F: 613-745-3516  
[sdchutter@rogers.com](mailto:sdchutter@rogers.com)

## Mandates

### Tendering Practices

Spencer Hagan, Chair  
613-225-6130  
[sdhagan@pcl.com](mailto:sdhagan@pcl.com)

Hubie Splinter  
613-727-8939  
[hubie@graebeck.com](mailto:hubie@graebeck.com)

Michael Assal  
613-521-2550  
[massal@taplenconstruction.com](mailto:massal@taplenconstruction.com)

Shawn Argue  
613-831-7044  
[shawn@bairdconstruction.ca](mailto:shawn@bairdconstruction.ca)

Sean Lundy  
613-233-8484  
[sean@mplundy.com](mailto:sean@mplundy.com)

### Integrity and Ethics Award

Hubie Splinter  
613-727-8939  
[hubie@graebeck.com](mailto:hubie@graebeck.com)

### Non-Refundable Deposits

Jim Tsarouhas  
613-224-3714  
[jjmt@tofcon.ca](mailto:jjmt@tofcon.ca)

### Nominating Committee

Michael Assal, Chair  
613-521-2550  
[massal@taplenconstruction.com](mailto:massal@taplenconstruction.com)

### Newsletters/Communication

Shawn Argue  
613-831-7044  
[shawn@bairdconstruction.ca](mailto:shawn@bairdconstruction.ca)

### Entertainment

Joshua Laginski, Chair  
613-445-2944  
[josh@frecon.ca](mailto:josh@frecon.ca)

Shawn Argue  
613-831-7044  
[shawn@bairdconstruction.ca](mailto:shawn@bairdconstruction.ca)

### Web Site

Michael Nicolini  
613-745-0006  
[michael@nicolini.ca](mailto:michael@nicolini.ca)

### BILDCO Ottawa Joint Committee

Hubie Splinter, Co-Chair  
613-727-8939  
[hubie@graebeck.com](mailto:hubie@graebeck.com)

Michael Assal  
613-521-2550  
[massal@taplenconstruction.com](mailto:massal@taplenconstruction.com)

Don Chutter  
613-745-4786  
[sdchutter@rogers.com](mailto:sdchutter@rogers.com)

Spencer Hagan  
613-225-6130  
[sdhagan@pcl.com](mailto:sdhagan@pcl.com)

Shawn Argue  
613-831-7044  
[shawn@bairdconstruction.ca](mailto:shawn@bairdconstruction.ca)

### Membership

Michael Assal  
613-521-2550  
[massal@taplenconstruction.com](mailto:massal@taplenconstruction.com)

### Projects Awards Program

Michael Assal  
613-521-2550  
[massal@taplenconstruction.com](mailto:massal@taplenconstruction.com)

### OCA Standard Practices

#### Committee Liaison

Sean Lundy  
613-233-8484  
[sean@mplundy.com](mailto:sean@mplundy.com)

### Alliance for Building a Better Ottawa

Sean Lundy  
613-233-8484  
[sean@mplundy.com](mailto:sean@mplundy.com)