



General Contractors Association of Ottawa Newsletter

Striving for Excellence • Integrity • Ethics

Forwarded to:

Upcoming Board Meetings:

Friday, September 9th
 Friday, September 30th
 Friday, October 28th

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Annual GCAO Golf Day

This year's annual GCAO Golf Day took place for the third year in a row at the beautiful Marshes golf course in Kanata. With a total of nine teams in attendance, all of us enjoyed a great day of golf. The rain held off until all of us finished our game and gathered inside for the dinner and golf awards. This year, golf

awards were given to: Taplen/Aecon for the Most Honest Team, Peter Nicolini for the Longest Drive, and Scott Black for Closest to the Pin (see photos below). We would like to thank two newcomers from the tournament including: Krista Construction and Sullivan Construction. We would also like to thank

those of you who regularly attend the event. This golf tournament is a great networking and social opportunity for the board members, members, and peers. We look forward to seeing you again and hopefully seeing even more new faces in the upcoming years!



Most Honest Team:

Joshua Laginski presenting to Michael Assal and Curtis West (Gerald Beuman and Gary Kozak not shown)

Longest Drive:

Josh presents trophy to Peter Nicolini

Closest to the Pin:

Josh presents trophy to Scott Black for Broccolini Construction

Semi-Annual General Meeting

Following the golf day, the association gathered for the Semi-Annual General Meeting. Led by Hubie Splinter – current President of the GCAO – issues such as membership, tendering

practices, non-refundable deposits, BILDSCO, and The Ottawa Building Alliance were discussed. We wish to encourage attendance at the Golf Day/Semi-Annual General Meeting as it provides you

with an opportunity to hear about recent news in your construction community and also, voice your opinions and offer insight to the board members concerning the issues that matter to you.

Entertainment and Award News

At this year's Annual General Meeting in January, the GCAO Project Awards Program was launched for the first time.



We have determined that this program will run every second year, and therefore, will resume in January 2012. We look forward to seeing what the next two years bring in terms of your achievements and general contracting contributions to the Ottawa community!



How to Contact GCAO

Contact information for all Directors are listed on page 4. For general inquiries or comments please use the contact information below:

Tel: 613-239-4525
 Fax: 877-212-2974
 Email: admin@gcaottawa.com

Tendering Practices

Issues concerning tendering practices are often viewed as the most important responsibilities of the GCAO. At this time, the GCAO is focusing on the issues related to Supplementary General Conditions (SGC's), more specifically, the excessive numbers of SGC's that are emerging as part of tendering and/or proposal submissions. One of our top priorities is to meet with the CCDC, CCA, OCA, and OGCA to unite in our vision and re-establish a fair and equitable transfer of risk and enable our members to rely upon the suite of standardized tender and contract documents produced by the Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC).

These documents were previously developed in collaboration with owners, design professionals, and contractors. Discussions

with the CCDC, CCA, OCA, and OGCA will center around two specific publications "recommending" Supplementary Conditions to owners and designers, namely the OGCA's Industry Bulletin 10-01 and the OAA/OGCA's "A Guide to Bidding and Supplementary Conditions for Healthcare Projects."

It is important to note that the GCAO was successful in dealings with the Ottawa Catholic School Board regarding a reduction of SGC's in their tenders. Fruitful and on-going discussions took place with extremely good input from both sides and the valued involvement of both the CCDC and OCA. We commend all organizations for their diligence and effort in establishing fairness and transparency. The latest change brought about the return to public tender

openings for all major additions/renovations and new schools handled by the OCSB.

We are currently working on other files including the TD Canada Trust Hunt Club Branch, the Queen's Testing Laboratory, and the University of Ottawa. Moreover, the GCAO is presently making representations to CB Richard Ellis (CBRE) concerning the IBM SWG Consolidation Project prequalification, with the intention of reducing the number and severity of the supplementary conditions intended for use in connection with the future CCDC 2 – 2008 Stipulated Price Contract for that project. Finally, concerns have been expressed to the City of Ottawa regarding the Kanata North Recreation Complex with respect to a number of concerns associated with the project.

On the lighter side...



Welcome to New Members!

Presently, membership with the association remains strong and continues to grow. Although one member was lost this year, we are glad to confirm three new memberships with **DeMarco Construction, Ottawa Commercial Contractors and Shabnam Construction.**



As always we continue to welcome and encourage new members to join.

Non-Refundable Deposits Program

The purpose of the Non-Refundable Deposits Program (NRDP) is to ensure that the cost of the tender document production is re-directed to the appropriate party (the owner), and to ensure that tender documents are recycled and redistributed to the successful contractor.

This year, the NRDP program has been successfully implemented on three projects with a total of \$13,564.00 worth in rebates to bidders and members.

GCAO Website Updates and New Information

A few noteworthy updates to the GCAO website include:

1) A link to the GCAO Project Award Winners for 2011. This link offers award and project descriptions, photos of the winners, and descriptions of the winning projects.

2) A new Resource Link that provides position papers, minutes, education links, project awards information, trade scope of work, and upcoming event information. We encourage you to visit the website regularly to keep yourself informed and up

to date with GCAO news!

It is important for us to acknowledge Baytek Systems as they host the GCAO website at no cost to the Association. From creation, to changes and maintenance their work is *greatly* appreciated.

Site Plan Approval Delays on ICI Building Projects

Cited by GCAO Delegation to City's Consultant

Todd MacDonald of Performance Concepts, Toronto, has been engaged by the City of Ottawa to review its "One Stop Service" designed to speed up the approval of Site Plan Applications and Building Permits.

Mr. MacDonald's main focus had been on Residential Developers and Consultants inasmuch as it was the City's perspective that the process was working pretty well within the ICI Sector.

However, an 8-member delegation meeting with him on May 3rd on behalf of GCAO and BILDCO, stressed that experience to date was very mixed. Whereas the process had worked well on some projects, even longer delays had taken place than in the past on others. Specific cases of lengthy

delays, often on simple matters, were provided. General comments included the following:

Some steps had been eliminated but others had been added. Requirements at Pre-consult Meetings were too detailed -- 30 items were on the check list; many did not apply but all had to be dealt with. The time booked for the meeting room was sometimes insufficient.

There was often a lack of follow-through by staff and of continuity of personnel -- often the Team Leader was changed and/or was only a Junior Planner. These individuals were supposed to be the "drivers" to achieve the approval within the statutory period, however, they had no authority over team members. If

something was deemed to be incomplete before its end, the "clock started ticking" all over again. Small problems often took weeks to be resolved. Staff holidays, taken one after another, were especially a problem in the summer months.

Mr. MacDonald noted that a "cultural complacency" remained within the staff. His report would be made in the fall.

The Association's thanks are extended to Doug Burnside (Dolyn Developments), Tony Mariani (Margard Builders), Ken Hoppner (Morley Hoppner) and Thady Murray (ZW Group), who joined the GCAO Executive's Hubie Splinter, Michael Assal, Shawn Argue and Don Chutter for the session.

GCAO Members:

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.

GCAO Board Members



Photo credit: Simon Hannington

Front row (left to right):
Michael Nicolini, Jim Tsarouhas, Joshua Laginski, Shawn Argue, Spencer Hagan, Don Chutter.

Back Row (left to right):
Sean Lundy, Hubie Splinter, Michael Assal.

Absent from photo: Paul McDonald.

President

Hubie Splinter
T: 613-727-8939
F: 613-727-4297
hubie@graebeck.com

1st Vice President

Spencer Hagan
T: 613-225-6130
F: 613-225-6176
sdhagan@pcl.com

2nd Vice President

Shawn Argue
T: 613-831-7044
F: 613-831-6344
shawn@bairdconstruction.ca

Past President

Michael Assal
T: 613-521-2550
F: 613-521-8945
massal@taplenconstruction.com

Treasurer

Paul McDonald
T: 613-831-6223
F: 613-831-5528
paul@mbconstruction.ca

Secretary

Michael Nicolini
T: 613-745-0006
F: 613-745-8320
michael@nicolini.ca

Director

Sean Lundy
T: 613-233-8484
F: 613-221-3606
sean@mplundy.com

Director

Joshua Laginski
T: 613-445-2944
F: 613-445-3652
josh@frecon.ca

Director

Jim Tsarouhas
T: 613-224-3714
F: 613-224-3630
jim@tofcon.ca

Executive Director

Don Chutter
T: 613-745-4786
F: 613-745-3516
sdchutter@rogers.com

Mandates

Tendering Practices

Spencer Hagan, Chair
613-225-6130
sdhagan@pcl.com

Hubie Splinter
613-727-8939
hubie@graebeck.com

Michael Assal
613-521-2550
massal@taplenconstruction.com

Shawn Argue
613-831-7044
shawn@bairdconstruction.ca

Sean Lundy
613-233-8484
sean@mplundy.com

Integrity and Ethics Award

Hubie Splinter
613-727-8939
hubie@graebeck.com

Non-Refundable Deposits

Jim Tsarouhas
613-224-3714
jim@tofcon.ca

Nominating Committee

Michael Assal, Chair
613-521-2550
massal@taplenconstruction.com

Newsletters/Communication

Shawn Argue
613-831-7044
shawn@bairdconstruction.ca

Entertainment

Joshua Laginski, Chair
613-445-2944
josh@frecon.ca

Shawn Argue
613-831-7044
shawn@bairdconstruction.ca

Web Site

Michael Nicolini
613-745-0006
michael@nicolini.ca

BILDCO Ottawa Joint Committee

Hubie Splinter, Co-Chair
613-727-8939
hubie@graebeck.com

Michael Assal
613-521-2550
massal@taplenconstruction.com

Don Chutter
613-745-4786
sdchutter@rogers.com

Spencer Hagan
613-225-6130
sdhagan@pcl.com

Shawn Argue
613-831-7044
shawn@bairdconstruction.ca

Membership

Michael Assal
613-521-2550
massal@taplenconstruction.com

Projects Awards Program

Michael Assal
613-521-2550
massal@taplenconstruction.com

OCA Standard Practices Committee Liaison

Sean Lundy
613-233-8484
sean@mplundy.com

Alliance for Building a Better Ottawa

Sean Lundy
613-233-8484
sean@mplundy.com