

# OALA NEWS

Ontario Association of Landscape Architects

Friday, September 10, 2010



Ontario  
Association of  
Landscape  
Architects

## WHAT WOULD A PRACTICE ACT MEAN?

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute has been in contact with OALA recently to discuss their intention to pursue self-regulation. OALA convened a task force to review OPPI's self-regulation initiative, and both organizations met in June for an initial dialogue. OALA has since followed up on that meeting with a letter to OPPI, detailing our issues and concerns about their plan to pursue a practice act. A copy of the letter OALA sent to OPPI follows at the bottom of this newsletter.

OALA has expressed its concern that, because of the significant overlap in the two professions, OPPI's self-regulation initiative may restrict the practice and business of Landscape Architecture in Ontario and negatively impact upon OALA members' ability to earn a living.

As you know, OALA has a title act – anyone in Ontario wishing to call themselves “landscape architect” must be a full member of OALA. These early discussions with OPPI have caused OALA to evaluate its own position on self-regulation. **We would like to hear members' views on the worthiness of OALA pursuing self-regulation.** What would it mean to you and your livelihood? There are pros and cons to consider. For example, self-regulation would require Landscape Architects to carry potentially costly insurance. In defining the profession for practice legislation, would LAs limit themselves, or does the absence of a practice act allow you more flexibility in your responses to a constantly changing society? Is the profession healthier without a practice act? Are you concerned that without a practice act, other professions could exclude Landscape Architects from some practice areas, or take over our areas of business when they move towards their own clearer standards? In order to protect our profession, **it's important we hear your comments and receive your feedback in defining our own practice.**

We will continue to monitor the situation with OPPI. At a minimum, OALA is asking OPPI for a provision for grandfathering OALA members who earn a substantial amount of their income from matters concerning land use planning. We are also asking for exemptions for OALA members where there is overlap. We will keep you apprised of further developments. OPPI expects to have a draft scope of practice in fall 2010 and they will be sharing it with OALA to gain our feedback.

We need to hear your feedback on these issues. Please send your comments to Ronda Kellington at [oalaadmin@oala.ca](mailto:oalaadmin@oala.ca).



## OALA STRATEGIC PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE

Please look in your in-box for the e-mail with the link to the OALA Strategic Planning Survey. It's vital we receive your feedback as the Association develops plans for the coming years. Please take the time to complete the survey. The information collected will be confidential.

## CONFIRM YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

The OALA office is preparing annual reports and would like all contact information to be current. Kindly check your contact information on the OALA Website, including your personal listing and your firm information if applicable. <http://oala.ca/search.aspx>

Please forward any changes to Karen at [registrar@oala.ca](mailto:registrar@oala.ca) by **September 30, 2010**. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## MEMBER NEWS

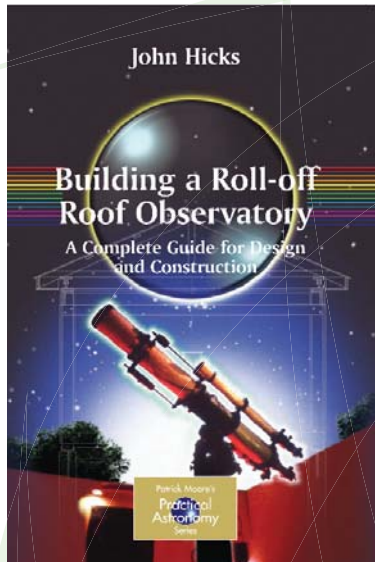
In the last newsletter we mentioned that George F. Dark, FCSLA will be inducted into the ASLA Class of 2010 The College of Fellows for the American Society of Landscape Architects, ASLA. The list of this year's inductees also include OALA members **James P. Ballantyne**, OALA, CSLA, ASLA, and **Greg Smallenberg**, OALA, CSLA, ASLA. The designation of Fellow is one of the ASLA's highest honours and is conferred on individuals in recognition of exceptional accomplishments over a sustained period of time.

**James Ballantyne**, nominated in the Knowledge Category by the ASLA Council of Fellows, has integrated digital design into landscape architecture for the past 20 years through his practice, research, and teaching. Among his successes in transforming the way landscape architects conceive and configure space and objects are the establishment of the first ASLA bulletin board; a system to automatically convert 2-D conceptual plans to working drawings; and the ASLA CADdetails product information web site. Cross-platform interoperability remains the main focus of Ballantyne's research into object-oriented automation of the landscape architectural process. The tools he derives from his work make it possible to evaluate the life-cycle effects of design and specification decisions in the studio on the fly.

**Greg Smallenberg** was nominated in the Works Category by the ASLA Council of Fellows Executive Committee. As a dynamic, influential leader of landscape architecture in Canada, he is a tireless promoter of the profession's duty to take a strong urban leadership role culturally, environmentally, socially, and politically. His award-winning parks, streetscapes, urban designs, memorials, waterfronts, plazas, historic renovations, campuses, and gardens have generated considerable public dialogue on public spaces as systems. His landscapes, wholly urban or partly natural, emerge as centers of a multidimensional experience and demonstrate integrated design thinking. In his plans, he effectively leverages the landscape as the element that best connects the various urban functions of resource management, civic gathering, work, and recreation.

To read the complete list of 2010 ASLA College of Fellows inductees, visit the **ASLA website, click here.**





### **University of Toronto Class of 1980 Reunion**

Please click the link to view a picture of the 1980 University of Toronto BLA Class Reunion that took place on Saturday June 12, 2010.

**Click here to view the picture.**

### **Roof Observatory Design Manual**

John Hicks, OALA, has published a new book on constructing back yard observatories, written from the standpoint of a landscape architect. Since it is a "garden shed" of sorts and will be a future requirement by some homeowners-amateur astronomers, it fits the arena of landscape architecture (just as a gazebo would). Soon an OALA member may be asked by a client to solicit an architect for the design. Now you won't have to since one of your own has written a full design manual. The book is published by Springer USA ([springer.com](http://springer.com)). It contains a CD ROM with a full plan set. Requiring a little over two years, the work is a tribute to a landscape architect who is also an astronomer (solar astronomer). Both disciplines are required to write such a book and in fact it's a first from a landscape architect.

## **COMING EVENTS**

**Please click this link to view these events, and more!**

### **OALA Fall Social in Guelph**

The OALA Fall Social, organized by the Social Committee, is taking place in Guelph on Wednesday, September 29th, 2010 at the Albion Hotel, 49 Norfolk St. Guelph, ON from 6-8:30pm. This is a family friendly event for OALA Members, Associates and Students of Landscape Architecture. Guelph supports free 3 hour on-street parking. **Click here to view invite.**

### **Rethinking out Streets Symposium**

Saturday, September 25, 2010. **Click here to view the flyer.**

### **Save the Date for Green Roofs**

The OALA Continuing Education Committee will be presenting a day-long Green Roof Seminar on **Friday, October 22nd** at the Toronto Botanical Garden. Save the date in your calendar now. Further details will follow, including on-line registration



## **IN OTHER NEWS**

### **The 2011 LACF Grants Program**

The Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation (LACF) is pleased to announce its 2011 grants program. This year, grants varying from \$2,000 for graduate students and up to \$10,000 for professionals are available for research, communication and scholarship activities. Proposals will be evaluated based on criteria set forth by the LACF Board. Submissions must be received no later than, Friday, November 19th, 2010. See the LACF website [www.lacf.ca](http://www.lacf.ca) for 2011 LACF grant application information.



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organization of the  
Canadian Society of  
Landscape Architects

August 27, 2010

Ms Ann Joyner, Chair  
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Mr. Brian Brophy, Manager  
Professional Standards  
Ontario Professional Planners Institute

**Re: OPPI Self-Regulation (Registration) Initiative**

Dear Council and Professional Practice Advisory Group,

We are responding to the meeting we had together on June 28, 2010 to introduce the above initiative. Since that time we have had an opportunity to think about and meet to discuss your initiative more fully and contemplate its potential impact on the practice of our profession.

As we expressed during the meeting we are concerned that there is significant overlap in our two professions and your self-regulation initiative may restrict the practice and business of Landscape Architecture in Ontario. This may in turn negatively impact upon our members' ability to earn a living.

This has triggered new initiatives in our organization to evaluate our own position on OALA self-regulation. Given that the OPPI has been considering this matter for some time and your proposed legislation is expected to be drafted this fall, we request that your proposed legislation include a provision for **grandfathering** our members who earn a substantial amount of their income from matters concerning land use planning including but not limited to site planning, urban design, environmental planning, community planning, greenspace planning and recreation planning.

One of our new initiatives is to identify the areas of professional practice with our members.

We also ask that your proposed legislation include **exemptions** for our members where there is overlap.

We appreciate your willingness to meet and discuss your initiative with us and thank you in advance for your consideration of the above matters. We look forward to continuing the dialogue and to receiving an invitation to review and comment on your proposed legislation.

Yours sincerely,  
ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



Glenn A. O'Connor OALA, CSLA, ASLA  
President

CC Members and Associates of the OALA