

COMPETITION & COLLABORATION

Ontario Association of Landscape Architects

Monday, April 18, 2011



Special Edition Newsletter: OALA Conference and AGM

The 2011 OALA Conference and AGM saw its largest attendance in some time, with 121 Full Members registered for the AGM, and over 200 members, guests and sponsors in total participating in our day-long event at The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon at the Toronto Reference Library. The venue was beautiful. The food was delicious and everyone was engaged and energetic. Break times were noisy as old friends and new took time to catch up with each other.

The Conference

The day started with a keynote address from Geoffrey Cape of Evergreen, who inspired participants to consider the possibilities of collaboration as seen through the model that Evergreen has followed. Evergreen has used collaboration – sometimes with unlikely partners – to strengthen the organization and help it to succeed. An excellent example of this success was shown in the redevelopment process and design of the renowned Brickworks in Toronto.

Eha Naylor took us back in time to remind us of the roots of the profession and OALA itself, and then she moved us forward to consider the competitive landscape and how it could challenge the profession in future. Eha supports pursuing legislation that will license Landscape Architects and put us on equal footing with other licensed professionals. This would offset our smaller numbers and allow our specialized skills to be sought in more appropriate instances, while also presenting a message of equivalent competency to the consumer.



From Barbados National Park to Edmonton's Jasper Avenue, Mark Reid used his own experiences to highlight the increasing importance of collaboration within and beyond the profession, and how fundamental it is to successful business operation and development. He presented collaboration as a way to expand into new markets. Mark kept the delegates grounded as he also provided an example of collaboration resulting in a stalemate, illustrating the need of Landscape Architects to maintain professional integrity throughout the process.

"The theme of collaboration as a way of becoming more competitive struck home with me and I thought the keynote speakers and two other presenters most interesting, relevant and thought-provoking. I also enjoyed the networking opportunities and socializing..." OALA Member

The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting saw recognition of the 39 new Full Members and presentation of the new 2011-2013 Strategic Plan. The members approved the 2010 audited financial statements. After seeing the 3-year budget projection, members also approved an increase in member fees for 2012.



Jonathan Loschmann

Five nominations were received for three open positions on Council. Johanna Evers (Toronto), Jonathan Loschmann (Ottawa), and Glenn O'Connor (Burlington) were elected. The full 2011-2012 OALA Council is featured later in the newsletter.

Members reviewed a report on Mandatory Continuing Education, and after a lengthy discussion the members asked OALA Council to prepare a complete report on the details and implementation of a mandatory continuing education program, including financial implications, in advance of the 2012 AGM.



Johanna Evers



Neil Dawe

Neil Dawe, CSLA President, and Paulette Vinette, CSLA Executive Director, both made presentations at the AGM, giving highlights of the work CSLA is doing on behalf of OALA members.

With the business of the AGM complete, the business meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

The President took time to make a very special presentation in recognition of a devoted Association employee. Karen Savoie has stated she will be retiring at the end of 2011, after nine years of exemplary service. She was recognized with a special certificate and a dozen long stem roses.

Following the presentation, members moved to the President's Reception and Awards Ceremony.



Karen Savoie, centre with roses

The President's Reception and Awards Ceremony

Four CSLA Regional Awards were presented to OALA Members:



Honour Award recipients for Claude Cormier Architects Paysagistes inc.

- An Honour Award – to PLANT Architect Inc./STIP in Joint Venture for Nathan Philips Square Podium Green Roof Garden (Toronto).



Honour Award recipients for PLANT Architect Inc.

- An Honour Award – to Claude Cormier Architectes Paysagistes inc. with The Planning Partnership for Canada's Sugar Beach (Toronto).



Merit Award recipients for Victor Ford and Associates Inc.

- A Merit Award, in the Design Category – to Victor Ford and Associates Inc. Landscape Architects for Martin Goodman Trail Improvements at Marilyn Bell Park (Toronto).

- A Citation Award, in the New Directions Category, to – Brook McIlroy for IOD Park Thunder Bay (Thunder Bay).



Citation Award recipients for Brook McIlroy

Seven OALA Honour Awards were presented:

- The David Erb Memorial Award for outstanding volunteerism went to **Victor Ford** for his exemplary voluntary contribution to the OALA over the past 20 years.
- The OALA Public Practice Award went to **Maurice Nelischer** who currently serves as Director of the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development at University of Guelph.



Victor Ford



Maurice Nelischer

- The OALA Award for Service to the Environment went to the **Town of Richmond Hill in Partnership with Ontario Streams** for their success in planning, designing and constructing the Newberry Wetland Restoration Project.



Scott Torrance

- The OALA Carl Borgstrom Award for Service to the Environment went to **Scott Torrance** for, among other achievements, his notable contributions to the field of Landscape Architecture for his work with green roofs.

- Emeritus Membership was awarded to **Ann Milovsoroff**, one of OALA's most distinguished members whose extensive career includes design, lecturing, writing and teaching.



Samuel Ng, Town of Richmond Hill



James Dougan

- The OALA Honorary Member Award went to **James Dougan**, Senior Ecologist and Principal of Dougan & Associates, for his long experience in applying ecology, planning and design to achieve tangible environmental benefits, and for his teaching experience in Landscape Architecture programs.



George Stockton

- The OALA Pinnacle Award for Landscape Architectural Excellence went to **George Stockton**. George is a Landscape Architect and Planner who has been working with Moriyma & Teshima Planners Limited since 1969. Now President of the firm, he has been Project Director of several long-term environmentally sensitive visionary plans which have won significant international awards.

It was an inspiring evening, and congratulations to all the award recipients.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2012 Conference and AGM.



OALA Council

The first Council meeting of 2011-2012 was held on April 11 and Officers were elected. The new 2011-2012 Council includes:

Glenn O'Connor, President

Joanne Moran, Vice President

Bryce Miranda, Treasurer

Morteza Behrooz, Secretary

Lawrence Stasiuk, Past President

Johanna Evers, Officer

Sarah Koeppe, Councillor

Jonathan Loschmann, Councillor

Neeltje Slingerland, Associate Representative (Senior)

Jonathan Woodside (Associate Representative (Junior)

Linda Thorne, Lay Councillor

Elise Shelley, Appointed Educator, University of Toronto

Sean Kelly, Appointed Educator, University of Guelph

Peggy Chi, University of Toronto Student Representative (voting)

Leila Fazel, University of Guelph Student Representative

...more AGM photos on the next page! ...

OALA Conference and AGM

Moments in the day include...

1. New OALA pins were presented to those members in attendance who have been full members of the Association for 25+ years. The Annual Report lists the names of all the members who have reached this significant milestone.
2. President Glenn O'Connor (left) presents a special recognition certificate to Past President Lawrence Stasiuk, in recognition of Lawrence's exemplary service as OALA President in 2009-10.

