



# General Contractors Association of Ottawa Newsletter

*Building a Greater Ottawa*



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website

## **President's Note** Jim Tsarouhas, GCAO President

I would like to begin by thanking Past President Josh Laginski for his 5 years of service to the GCAO Board. He has made a tremendous contribution to the Board and provided impressive guidance and leadership for me to follow. I would also like to thank our current Board of Directors who volunteer their time and expertise for the benefit of member firms.

2015 kicked off with our AGM and third bi-annual project awards program. Our annual Cocktail Reception followed in February where we honored Robert Merkley with the GCAO Integrity and Ethics Award.

The first quarter of the year included meetings with The University of Ottawa and Carleton University to discuss procurement standard practices, project perspectives in 2015 as well as deficiency and retention funds requirements we see creeping into specifications. We also met with the City of Ottawa to discuss extended warranties, standardization of mark ups on changes, overhead costs on after-hours or extended contracts as well as VPM implementation feedback.

Although 2015 started off with a sense of optimism, signals and feedback received from major buyers indicate that 2015 will be another challenging year. We urge all members to take a long-term view of their business operations.

Please be diligent about addressing onerous SGC's that download too much risk onto the GC as well as the industry's newest trend of post-qualification, two envelope tender submissions. It is paramount, during these slow times, that these issues are addressed so that they do not become the industry norm when the economy picks up.

When we are desperate for work, we all have a tendency to turn a blind eye to tendering conditions that we know are wrong - but if we set a precedence and accept them now, how can we argue that we won't accept them in the upcoming years?

## **GCAO - AGM**

This year's Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 and was hosted at the **The Centurion Centre** on 170 Colonnade Road.

Following the regular membership business that was attended to, the third bi-annual project award presentation took place.

This year the GCAO had a total of 7 submissions, 5 of which were for the Category A – Projects Under \$15 million and 2 submissions under the Category A – Projects Over \$15 Million. This year the GCAO did not receive any submissions under the Category B – Industrial/Infrastructure/Civil.

The following is a summary of the entries:

1. Category A – Buildings - Projects Over \$15 million

1. Sensplex East – Morley Hoppner
2. Algonquin College Student Commons – PCL

**The winner was - Sensplex East completed by Morley Hoppner**

2. Category A – Buildings - Projects Under \$15 million

1. Jules Morin Park Construction – Waterdon Construction
2. Solacity Inc Offices/Warehouse Building – BBS Construction (Ontario) Ltd
3. McIntosh Perry Head Office Expansion – TOFCON Construction Inc.
4. Electrical Contractors Association of Ottawa – Graebeck Construction Ltd.
5. Ashbury College Creative Learning Centre – Frecon Construction Ltd

**The winner was - Jules Morin Park Construction completed by Waterdon Construction**

The Panel of Adjudicators ranked the entries in accordance with a long list of criteria including project management, safety, scheduling, complexity, innovations, customer satisfaction, and contribution to the area's economic, social and environmental quality of life.

The Panel members were:

1. Claudio Brun del Re, Executive Director University of Ottawa
2. Randy Romanin, Executive Director, JL Richards
3. Robert Matthews, Principal, N45 Architecture

GCAO would like to thank the panel for their review of all the submissions and their input to this year's entries.

**Don Chutter Meritorious Achievement Award:**

The Don Chutter Meritorious Achievement Award was presented to the submission that best demonstrates the contribution of General Contracting to our quality of life in Ottawa. The judging panel considered the project which excels in all areas of the rated criteria and is also an Ottawa and Surrounding Region Project. The criteria for consideration was four different but related aspects of the submitting firm's role in the project:

- Project objectives, solutions and achievements;
- Technical excellence and innovation;
- Level of difficulty; and
- Contribution to economic, social or environmental quality of life

**The winner for the 2014 Don Chutter Meritorious Achievement Award was the Construction of the Jules Morin Park that was completed by Waterdon Construction.**



## The GCAO Cocktail

**Where:** Rideau Club – Feb 27, 2015

**What:** The GCAO's biggest event where you get to mingle, renew connections, make new ones and be part of the Association's largest event featuring media and local leaders from Ottawa's business and municipal communities.

Our annual cocktail party was a great success and the GCAO would like to thank Bradley's Commercial for another year of sponsorship.

The GCAO awarded its 2015 Integrity and Ethics Award to Robert Merkley, president of Merkley Supply Ltd.

This is the first time GCAO has granted its ethics and integrity award to a supplier. Previous awards have gone to owners/developers/architects and general contractors.

Merkley Supply Ltd is eastern Ontario's largest masonry supplier with 80 per cent market share for new homes and ICI projects.

The company, which currently has 43 employees, was founded in 1959 by his late father Cam Merkley. Merkley became the company president in 1996, and guided the business to the next level.

## The GCAO Golf Tournament - SAGM

We encourage all our members to participate in this year's annual golf tournament to be held Friday, June 26 (8:00 am tee off) at Kanata Lakes Golf Course. Again this year we are inviting all Past Presidents to attend as guests of the GCAO.

If you could kindly respond back to Alison Hogan at [a.hogan@gcaottawa.com](mailto:a.hogan@gcaottawa.com) with your registration before Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

As we always do at this time, we will hold the GCAO Semi-Annual General Meeting to update our members.

We look forward to hosting you at Kanata Lakes Golf Club!



# Tendering Practices

CM proposals for Postal Station B: this prequalification process required that the bidders meet mandatory requirements in a phase I proposal and then submit a 2 envelope proposal for phase II. GCAO submitted a letter requesting that the 2 envelope system in Phase II be removed as the candidates were already approved by PWGSC in Phase I. PWGSC responded that they were going to continue with the tender as issued but would meet to review and discuss this with GCAO and the OCA.



## Non Refundable Deposits

In 2015 thus far, the GCAO received one request for the Non-Refundable Deposit Policy to be implemented. From this request the policy was not invoked due to the value being below the minimum one hundred dollar refund requirement as per NRD policy. A summary of the project from the 2015 NRD Policy follows:

**Agincourt Road PS FDK Addition and Renovation** - A request was sent in to the GCAO from a member firm requesting implementation of the NRD policy. Following a quotation from the printers it was determined that the Drawings-Specification-Delivery costs would not exceed the minimal individual firm refund threshold. Therefore the Policy was cancelled. (Approximate value of \$760.00 plus HST)

### Non-Refundable “Deposit” for Tendering Documents Policy

#### Objectives:

- To direct the cost of the tender document production to the appropriate party, the Owner.
- To provide each bidder with a maximum of 2 sets of tender documents at minimal cost to the bidder. The provision of a free estimate for the work should be the extent of the investment by the bidder.
- To ensure that tender documents are recycled and redistributed to the successful contractor. This process invariably reduces costs to Owners and Bidders alike and is environmentally friendly.
- To convince all Owners to refund bidders the deposits for their tendering documents upon the return by unsuccessful bidders of their sets in good condition and within a period of two weeks. If required, the GCAO could administer a cash allowance on behalf of the owner.
- To ensure that the above objectives are met also in the case when the bidders are only supplied with an electronic version of the tender documents, ie. No hard copies are provided.

**[www.gcaottawa.com](http://www.gcaottawa.com)**

Our new website is up and running. Send us your project pics to help populate the site with local content or better yet, send along suggestions and ideas of what you want to see on the site. Your GCAO wants to know!

## GCAO BOARD MEMBERS

Call for  
project pics  
for the new  
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website

### President

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## MANDATES

### Tendering Practices

Gary Codogno

### Nominating Committee

Joshua Laginski

### BILDCO Ottawa Joint Committee

Josh Laginski - Chair  
Jim Tsarouhas  
Gary Codogno

### Projects Awards Program

Joshua Laginski

### Integrity and Ethics Award

Josh Laginski

### Newsletters/Communication

David Pimentel

### OCA Standard Practices Committee Liaison

Jim Tsarouhas  
Gary Codogno

### Non-Refundable Deposits

Chris Fournier

### Entertainment

David Pimentel  
Tim Pruner

### Web Site

Russell Grass

Executive Director  
Alison Hogan

### Treasurer

Tim Pruner

### Membership

Joshua Laginski