



General Contractors Association of Ottawa Newsletter

Building a Greater Ottawa

Inside:

President's Note

Past President's
Message

Annual General
Meeting Highlights

City Consultations

Awards Year

Changing Faces

Upcoming Events

Board Member's List

Mandates

President's Note **Joshua Laginski, GCAO President**

I have had the great pleasure of serving on the Board of Directors for the GCAO for 4 years and I look forward to leading the GCAO to another successful year in 2014. I have to thank Michael Nicolini for all his hard work and guidance during his tenure as President. There is no doubt that his efforts have made the GCAO stronger and I will reap the benefits of his labours as the association's President in 2014.

I also wanted to thank all the Board Members of the GCAO who have donated countless hours of their time for the benefit of the ICI construction sector. It is not easy to volunteer this amount of time to any cause and I am grateful for all the efforts that was put forth to make this year another fruitful experience.

Looking back at 2013, it becomes apparent that it was a challenging year for most of our members and it is in these times that desperation starts to set in and we all start making decisions that we wouldn't have made in a strong construction market. I think it is very important to keep the greater good of our industry in mind so that precedents are not created in our industry when times start getting better. As part of my leadership role in 2014 I intend to take a step back from the situation and evaluate what is best for our industry going forward and not just at that moment. I know this is easier said than done in times like these but it is my goal for 2014.

I look forward to serving as your 2014 President and building a better future for all of us.

Past President's Note **Michael Nicolini**

It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve as President of the GCAO. Over my tenure as President, the Association worked diligently to make representation on behalf of our membership and continued to promote open and fair practices throughout our industry as a whole. Furthermore, in 2013 our Association established a relationship with Mr. John Melia of Borden Ladner Gervais. Mr. Melia provides pro bono opinions to the Board on various Contractual interpretation issues which arise throughout our activities which is very much appreciated. Although we were unable to fill the Executive Director vacancy in 2013, it is my hope that we will do so in 2014 with continued persistence.

Going forward, under the leadership of Mr. Josh Laginski, I am confident that he will serve our Association well as President for 2014. I would like to wish him well throughout his Presidency. Finally I wish to thank the Board of Directors of 2013 for their efforts and service in the pursuit of our Association's objectives throughout my tenure.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

February 28th, 2014

March 28th, 2014



Annual General Meeting

Highlights

This year's annual general meeting was held in early January at the Ottawa Construction Association. For those who battled the cold, in addition to reviewing the year's past activities, the event also included the election of 3 new board members and culminated in a timely presentation by guest speaker James Benham on how technology has impacted construction and construction companies alike on site or at the office.

With clients demanding greater efficiencies, cost-reductions and transparencies, and with more and more risk downloaded on the construction industry, today a contractor must embrace technology (not just computers) or risk falling by the wayside. In fact, as Mr. Benham noted, with rapidly evolving software and hardware and with the processing speeds and storage capacities offered by 'the cloud', now is the perfect time to automate, upgrade or modernize our procedures. Benham suggests that compatibilities and issues related to jumping from mobile to iPad to Laptop to desktop and from platform to platform will be a thing of the past as both hardware and software companies move to seamlessly integrate to ensure end user adoption.



Photo Credit: rondevries.com



Photo Credit: rondevries.com

The perception of greater risk exposure and security in today's wild west we call the Internet is exactly that – a perception. Mr. Benham suggests with today's encryption passwords and firewalls, we are no more susceptible to threats over the Internet than we are to break-ins, theft and vandalism of our bricks and mortar offices. Just as we take the necessary precautions to protect our facilities and equipment, we need to take the same precautions to ensure security of our technology footprint. He suggests that in the past, companies treated this as secondary or only in passing.

The meeting end with a presentation of exciting and already accessible new products including estimating and accounting software, mobile all-in-one site offices the size of a small cabinet available for less than \$1500 and 3D application programs that literally bring construction drawings to life in 3D format.

City Consultations on Vendor Performance

The GCAO recently met with the City of Ottawa with regards to the Vendor Performance Management System that they will be implementing in early 2015.

The system will track performance on each project that a firm has with the City of Ottawa. The City has told us that the purpose of this system is to strengthen communication and performance on all City contracts.

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

The system will be managed online and will allow any firm to access the posted information. The criteria for evaluation are as follows:

1. Quality Control
2. Safety
3. Customer Service
4. Costs
5. Schedule

The first phase of this program will be for information purposes only but the City of Ottawa has highlighted that it may become an evaluation tool for tender awards in approximately 3-4 years' time. The whole idea is to provide the City of Ottawa with documentation that will allow them to determine best value for their citizens during a tender award process.

Members have to submit comments to the City of Ottawa before March 7th, 2014 so please forward any comments, questions or concerns by email to j.laginski@frecon.ca before March 5th, 2014.

Prompt Payment Legislation

Still in the news

The Prompt Payment Act is still in the news with a free upcoming information session coming up February 28th, 2014 at the Ottawa Construction Association.

The information session will present an opportunity for industry practitioners and Buyers of construction to learn more about and become informed about the draft legislation which will establish 30 days as the standard for contract payment

The Prompt Payment Act, 2013, expected to address the issue of timely payment for work that is completed and approved, has been referred to the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills and is awaiting a Third Reading. If passed, Ontario will be the first jurisdiction in Canada to have adopted such legislation. Some key highlights of the Act include:

- Contractors and subcontractors will be entitled to receive progress payments and to suspend work or terminate a contract if such payments are not made.
- Payments can only be withheld if the payer notifies the payee that a payment application is disapproved or amended within 10 days after it is submitted. Limits are imposed on the amount that can be withheld.
- Owners will be required to provide contractors with certain financial information before entering into a contract and subcontractors will be entitled to receive certain financial information as well.

2014 IS AWARDS YEAR

Each year the GCAO recognizes the outstanding achievements of members of our industry. The GCAO will award up to four Awards of Excellence and up to four Awards of Merit. The ceremony will also mark the 3rd Annual **Don Chutter Meritorious Achievement Award** presentation. Inaugurated in 2011, the award recognizes that general contractor whose efforts most improved quality of life in Ottawa.

Entries are judged by a distinguished panel of industry experts including peers, engineers, architects and owners alike not currently engaged in general contracting.

Keep an eye out for our GCAO's formal call for entries, award details, requirements for submissions and entry deadlines to follow in the near future.



UPCOMING EVENTS

IT'S A PARTY AND YOU'RE INVITED!

The Association's annual Cocktail Party will take place on February 26th at 5:30pm at the Rideau Club.

Come on out to mingle with your fellow members, meet our new board members and enjoy some camaraderie away from the trenches!

WINTER GOLF

Well not really. But now is as good a time as any to begin thinking about this year's GCAO Golf Tournament to be held in June.

Look for upcoming news and registration information as this is always a popular event at a great value and if anything else, a reason to stay away from the office.

NEW FACES

This year the Association will see three new faces sitting at the Board table. Spencer Hagan, Glenn St. Germain and Andrew Splinter have vacated their roles after contributing valuable time and effort to help continue the Association's activities. With greatest thanks, we wish them continue success as they continue to be active members of the Association.

Where there are endings there are beginnings. Tim Pruner (M. Sullivan), Michael Mercier (R.E. Hein) and Tony Pimentel (Govan Brown Construction Managers) join the Association's Board of Directors after elections held at the AGM. Please welcome our new friends who will no doubt bring fresh ideas, insight and leadership to the board.

GCAO BOARD MEMBERS

President

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

Past President

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

Director

Tim Pruner
T: 613-820-5248
F: 613-820-4109
tpruner@sullivan.ca

1st Vice President

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

Secretary

Steve Smith
T: 613-565-2680
F: 613-565-9267
ssmith@ellisdon.com

Director

Tony Pimentel
T: 613-231-7878
F: 613-231-7879
tpimentel@govanbrown.com

2nd Vice President

Gary Codogno
T: 613-836-1183
F: 613-836-9136
gcodogno@pcsgc.ca

Director

David Pimentel
T: 613-830-7766
F: 613-841-2609
david@fiagroup.ca

Director

Michael Mercier
T: 613-831-2335
F: 613-831-8779
mmercier@rehein.com

MANDATES

Tendering Practices

Jim Tsarouhas - Chair
Josh Laginski
Michael Nicolini
Gary Codogno

Nominating Committee

Michael Nicolini

Newsletters/Communication

Tony Pimentel

BILDCO Ottawa Joint Committee

Josh Laginski - Chair
Jim Tsarouhas
Michael Nicolini
Gary Codogno

Projects Awards Program

Michael Nicolini

OCA Standard Practices Committee Liaison

Jim Tsarouhas

Integrity and Ethics Award

Josh Laginski

Entertainment

David Pimentel

Web Site

Gary Codogno

Alliance for Building a Better Ottawa

Steve Smith

Non-Refundable Deposits

Tim Pruner

Membership

Michael Nicolini

Treasurer

Michael Mercier