



Ontario Association for
Applied Architectural Sciences

May Newsletter 2006

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OAAAS Board of Directors Activities

The Ontario Association for Applied Architectural Sciences (OAAAS) is now just three years old, officially launched April 23, 2003. OAAAS is a not-for-profit association founded by the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) and the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT). The management team consists of the Board of Directors and officers of OAAAS, which are appointed by the Founders. Each Founder has an equal number of representatives nominated to the OAAAS Board; that number is currently four each. The total Board complement may not be less than six or greater than twelve. In addition, there is an Executive Director (Gordon Masters) who is responsible to the Board of Directors, a Registrar (Sam DiGiandomenico), and an Admissions Co-ordinator (Sherrie Machan). Sam's full time position is Director, Institute of Engineering Technology of Ontario (IETO) and Registrar (OACETT). Sherrie is an OACETT Admissions Co-ordinator, responsible for the Road Construction Designation Program, Reclassification or Upgrading

of Membership.

The OAAAS Board of Directors has been busy over the past few months. A Business Plan covering the 5-year period 2006-2010 has recently been finalized and forwarded to the Founders, OAA and OACETT. This business plan will guide the organization's growth and development. The Board of Directors approved the following statements in regards to the purpose and goals of OAAAS.

Purpose

The objects of the Ontario Association for Applied Architectural Sciences include the recognition and advancement of applied architectural sciences, and that to achieve the objects of OAAAS by causing it to govern its members in accordance with its by-laws in order that the public interest may be served and protected.

Goals

- OAAAS, in collaboration with its Founders, will be members' primary resource for professional services, practices, and standards.
- OAAAS will be a leading advocate for the career advancement of

architectural technicians and technologists to become Licensed Technologists OAA.

- OAAAS will promote the recognition of the designations Associate OAAAS, Technologist OAAAS, and Licensed Technologist OAA.
- OAAAS will promote the opportunities and benefits of membership to the public including: architectural technicians and technologists; college and university architectural students and faculty; architects; the building industry; and the government.
- OAAAS will be an effectively led association that utilizes the principles of knowledge-based strategic governance.
- OAAAS will be efficient, cost effective and member focused in implementing its operational plans.

The Business Plan makes reference to membership growth. Of particular interest, based on research statistics prepared by The Construction Sector Council, there is and will be sufficient

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demand in Ontario's economy for architectural technicians and technologists in the mid term (2006-2008) and the longer term (2008-2013). Following are further details from The Construction Sector Council report that indicates potential growth for the building sector in Ontario.

A comprehensive OAAAS candidate manual titled, *Licensed Technologist OAA Program Guide*, is receiving a final review and will be accessible online shortly. The guide will give current and prospective candidates

information on the three associations: OAAAS, OAA, OACETT; the process to become a Licensed Technologist OAA, including academic and experience requirements; and details about the OAA Admission Course, and the final examination. A copy of this manual will be forwarded to you online as soon as it is finalized.

Also, an OAAAS Ad Hoc Committee has been considering a special admittance policy for senior level building technologists who have considerable

experience in the architectural field. OAAAS has been receiving a considerable number of enquiries from experienced practitioners who are interested in the Licensed Technologist OAA designation. Any policy in this regard will require final approval by the Founders. If you are aware of anyone that may benefit from this policy, please forward their name and address (street or email) and I will forward the information to them when it becomes available. I will keep you posted.

Building Industry Job Market Research

The Construction Sector Council research shows that the building design industry has been growing and that there will be increased demand for qualified technicians and technologists in the mid term and longer term; a positive indicator for membership growth in OAAAS. The Construction Sector Council is a national organization committed to the development of a highly skilled workforce – one that will support the current and future needs of the construction industry in Canada. Created in April 2001, and financed by both government and industry, the CSC is a partnership between labour and business.

The Construction Sector Council (CSC) has created scenarios of construction activity from 2006 to 2013 for 38 trades and occupations in

all the provinces. These scenarios highlight the following conditions and implications:

- Construction activity has been generally strong across Canada from 2001 to 2004, leading other industries.
- Residential construction has been the dominant source of construction growth with more mixed activity in non-residential sectors.
- Labour markets have been tight with low unemployment rates and concern about skills shortages in some markets.
- Projections for 2006 to 2008 show a shift in activity with housing weakening and non-residential activity strengthening.
- Training and certification programs will need to expand to meet industry needs. Residential investment is expected to decline in the medium term with rising

interest rates and slower household growth, but to cycle up somewhat in the long term in response to an increase in immigration needed to meet Canada's employment requirements. The increase in industrial building construction originates from increased investment in the agriculture and manufacturing industries needed to meet future growth. Commercial building construction rises to service a rising population and increased business activity. Government and institutional building construction continues to rise in response to the need to develop additional infrastructure across the country and the funds made available by the federal government to finance this investment. (Source: CSC)



Ontario Colleges and University

To respond to the future demand to train and educate those interested in pursuing a career in the building profession, Ontario colleges of applied arts and technology and Ryerson University are expanding their architectural technician and technology programs. Centennial College in Toronto is reintroducing its architectural program. Georgian College in Barrie is establishing a new architectural technology program. Algonquin College has established a unique weekend architectural program that runs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for those individuals currently working in the field. St. Clair College in Windsor recently

announced the expansion of its architectural technology program. Ryerson University in Toronto is introducing a Masters of Architecture program. These are all positive indicators for potential membership growth in the building profession.

Ryerson's Certificate in Architecture (evening program) has recently been evaluated for students interested in OAAAS and OACETT membership. With the completion of both the Ryerson Certificate in Architecture and the Advanced Certificate in Architecture, candidates who then complete OACETT's Professional Practice Exam (PPE) will qualify for

certification as a Certified Technician (C.Tech.). The C.Tech. qualifies for the OAAAS designation, Associate OAAAS. Many thanks to Yew-Thong Leong, OAA, MRAIC, FIIAS, Program Coordinator - Programs in Architecture, Department of Architectural Science at Ryerson, for his assistance and support in the evaluation process.



Expansion of architectural technician and technology programs

OAA Admission Course and Licensed Technologist OAA Examination

I am pleased to report that ten OAAAS candidates have registered for the 2006 OAA Admission course to be held Monday, May 29, 2006 to Friday, June 1, 2006 at the Design Exchange in downtown Toronto. This group represents the first OAAAS candidates to attend the OAA Admission Course; they will be joining 105 OAA Interns.

As reported previously, the offering of the inaugural Licensed Technologist OAA

exam was delayed until after the OAA Admission course. The OAAAS candidates agreed to this after it was strongly recommended that they consider completing the OAA Admission course prior to writing the Licensed Technologist OAA examination. The material covered over the one week Admission Course will assist candidates in preparing for and successfully completing the Licensed Technologist OAA examination. The exam date will be in mid June; the

exact date is yet to be determined. This will give the candidates two weeks between the OAA Admission Course and the exam. If there is sufficient demand, it is anticipated that OAA may be willing to offer the Licensed Technologist OAA examination again in November.

“Ten OAAAS candidates are registered for the 2006 OAA Admission Course”

“Joining OAAAS is a wise move for building designers; it offers recognition in the architectural field.”

Membership Recruitment

An immediate source for OAAAS candidates is the technicians and technologists at architectural practices. I have visited some of the larger architectural practices and delivered a presentation to the staff that may be interested to pursuing OAAAS membership. Practices visited in Toronto include Urbana (HOK), Casey Group (Magna), Stantec, Quadrangle, MMC International, and Petroff.

Practices in Ottawa include Cuhaci, Edmunston Matthews, and Mill & Ross.

Do you know someone that would be interested in becoming a member of OAAAS? We have a comprehensive package that we would like to send to them. This information is also available on the OAA and OACETT websites. Joining OAAAS is a wise move for building designers; it offers recognition in the

architectural field that one cannot obtain elsewhere. If you are in a firm or company that has employees that would benefit from OAAAS membership, please contact me and I will be pleased to arrange a meeting to discuss OAAAS membership with you and your colleagues. Also, you may wish to contact Sherrie Machan, Admissions Co-ordinator, 416-621-9621, x234 or email smachan@oacett.org

OAAAS Members and Events

Eric Leitner, CSP. C.Tech., OAAAS, (OACETT's Ottawa Chapter Chair and MPP link) is the volunteer OAAAS contact person for the Ottawa area. Eric is a CADD Consultant and well known in the Nation's Capital Region.

Derek Smith, A.Sc.T., OAAAS, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity (Windsor) will represent OAAAS on the St. Clair College Architectural Program Advisory Committee.

Andrew Wheelband, A.Sc.T., OAAAS, will serve another term on the Centennial College Advisory Committee as a representative of OAAAS. Andrew works for Stantec/Murphy/Hilgers.

OAA Annual Conference

May 10-13, 2006
Westin Hotel, Ottawa

OACETT Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 3, 2006
10 a.m.
Sheraton Hotel, Hamilton

The OACETT and OAA websites offer you a wealth of information regarding their respective services and resources, news and publications, career professional development opportunities, membership benefits, and building code information. Take advantage of this information by visiting www.oacett.org and www.oaa.on.ca

Loew Architects Inc. has positions available for Architectural Technologists. Information is available at <http://www.loewarch.com/careers/careers.htm>