

Niagara Society of Architects Report: Events and Activities - 2020

The year 2020 was rather different than other years due to the limitations on in-person events.

Meetings:

An in-person meeting was held on February 27 (Heather Sakai of Guardian Glass), with subsequent planned meetings being cancelled.

Discussions were held from time-to-time with two of the usual meeting places (The St.Catharines Club and the Dalhousie Yacht Club), and although, through much of the year arrangements could be made, they would be difficult, so it was decided to defer in-person meetings.

In July an on-line architectural quiz night was held, with a variety of questions about architecture and construction.

In the previous OAA Continuing Education cycle the NSoA conducted a 'Get Your ConEd Hours Day', which was a Friday before cycle end which was packed with material for those who were short of hours, and those who wanted some to carry forward. As this was not possible, four on-line 'Zoom' sessions were set up.

These included:

November 19: OAA president's talk

November 26: with Durock on wall systems

December 15: with Tom Miller a British architect, who spoke on 'The Modest House' and conducted a fascinating discussion with the NSoA attendees. Unusually for the NSoA, this was held at noon, because of the time differences between the UK and Niagara. This was a very successful venture, and opened the door for more international content that can be developed in the future.

December 17: with Tremco on roofing materials and approaches

Films:

Although the 2020 Architecture+Design film series had to be cancelled, it was decided to develop the planned film trailers to be shown at the St.Catharines Performing Arts Centre before the films, both those belonging to the series, as well as before other selected films. Discussions were held in 2019/early 2020 with possible film producers and Lauren Emberson was selected on the basis of her understanding of architecture, viewing of other pieces of her work, as well as her competitive price. Through the summer a sub-committee worked with Ms.Emberson to develop four short film trailers featuring the architecture of Niagara and the involvement of Niagara architects in its creation. These will be used when the film series resumes and is not being hosted on the NSoA website, as well as being used at other events, such as the Cultural Days part of the Grape and Wine Festival (cancelled in 2020), when it resumes. The work was completed in late 2020.

Scholarships:

The scholarship programme was run again, and six applications were received. The quality of the applications was excellent and the committee decided to give two awards in 2020, one to a Waterloo student, and one to a Carleton student. It was decided to award two scholarships in

future years, provided that suitable applications are received. Based on the success of the talk given by a previous recipient, the scholarship now includes the obligation of the student to deliver a talk about their educational experience and their project work, to a NSoA meeting at a future convenient time.

Construction Liaison Project

Participation in joint Niagara 'Public Procurement for Local Prosperity Project' with the Niagara area contractors and other consultants continued in the first months of the year. Activities were suspended through much of 2020, and will resume in 2021 when it is possible. The NSoA worked to increase relations with the Niagara-area contractors, in promoting the industry, including NSoA representation at some of their meetings, and in the sponsorship of an 'Ice Dogs' hockey game, unfortunately cancelled due to the virus.

Walking Tour Project:

In conjunction with the proposed 2021 OAA conference to be held in Niagara Falls, the NSoA received Special Projects Funding to create an architectural walking tour of Niagara Falls. Although the conference was cancelled, the project continues, being undertaken by a sub-committee. The project was initially seen to be a paper guide to be included in the conference package, as well as put in the tourist racks at hotels, restaurants and the information centres, however now it is seen as being primarily in electronic form - accessible on the NSoA website and ultimately on a phone-accessible app. There is considerable general historical material available, but it does not have an architectural focus. Elements of this are being developed and as they reach a somewhat-complete form are being posted on the NSoA website.

Media Coverage:

The NSoA continued with obtaining media coverage. The executive ensured that the death of Don Chapman at the age of 94 was well covered in the media - a third of a page on page two of the main newspapers. Don Chapman was known for his many years as one of the main architects in Niagara Falls. The awarding of the scholarships was also covered in the major regional newspapers, complete with a photograph of one of the students being presented with her cheque.

Summary of Income and Expenses: Niagara Society of Architects

Income Statement: January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Revenue

Membership fees	\$ 4,655.00
Continuing Education Events:	1,368.60
Special project (Public Procurement)	3,000.00
Special project (Walking Tour)	<u>5,500.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE.....	\$14,523.60

Expenditures

Scholarships	\$ 2,000.00
Film trailer development	5,989.00
Website maintenance	339.00
Public Procurement for Local Prosperity (Armstrong communications)	2,260.00
Niagara Society of Architects meetings	404.48
Hockey game sponsorship with advertising rights	100.00
Reception for the lecture 'Better Cities' film festival	226.00
Architectural Film Fest at PAC	339.00
Rack cards for architectural city tours	<u>89.84</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	\$11,747.32

Operating Surplus: \$2,776.28