

Niagara Society of Architects Report: Events and Activities - 2022

The year 2022 was a time of returning things to normal, following the pandemic.

Meetings and Events

April 28: Astley-Gilbert presented a range of material on their current printing capabilities and architectural applications.

May 27: The 2022 big event was a day-long continuing education conference dealing with urban issues, and attended by twenty-eight members of the NSoA. This was entitled “The Face of the City”, at which numerous aspects of Niagara’s cities (both positive and negative), and ongoing changes, were presented and discussed. The City of St.Catharines, the Regional Municipality of Niagara, local developers and Brock University were all participants.

Topics included:

- Concepts of Niagara over time

- The individual building - Exploring human response

- City of St.Catharines’ planning perspectives.

- Views of a local innovative developer

- Urban Tehran

- Popular images of Niagara

- High-rises in Niagara cities.

 - Emilio Raimondo - talking about the Rankin Pt.Dalhousie project

 - Michael Allen - talking about high-rises in Niagara city centres

June 8: A visit to the new Canada Games building was hosted by Emilio Raimondo, who was a key instigator of the project and the local architect.

July 7: Organisational meeting (selection/confirmation of executive committee: Chair: Ian Ellingham, Vice-Chair: Kevin Emrich, Treasurer: Larisa Brodsky, Secretary: John Raimondo.)

November 24th Hunter Kauremszky (one of the 2022 scholarship recipients), spoke on his experiences in the architectural education process

Scholarships:

The scholarship programme was run again, and three applications were received. Two awards were made, both to students attending Ryerson.

It was decided to name the scholarship programme ‘The Michael Zuberec Scholarship’ to commemorate Mike, who passed away on September 28 shortly before his 92nd birthday. The funeral and wake was held on October 11, and was attended by a large number of NSoA members. He was a founder of the Niagara Society of Architects, remained an active participant, took an ongoing interest in the scholarships, and was appreciated by many local architects as a wonderful and insightful mentor.

Walking Tour Project:

In conjunction with the proposed (pre-covid) 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 was developed as an on-line version, and is available on the NSoA website. The development of the 'paper' version was reactivated, and is unfolding with a projected completion date in mid-2023. Of particular notice is that it was decided to create a set of sketches of the various buildings, which is being undertaken by one of our foreign-architect members.

At the current time, some of the sketches have become available:



Toronto Power Generating Station, Niagara Falls.

Eugene Zhilinsky

Media Coverage:

The NSoA continued with ensuring that media coverage was obtained. The passing of members Mike Zuberec and Grant Sauder was covered in the local newspapers.

In addition, StarMetrolandMedia offered an excellent advertising deal, so four half-page ads appeared in the *St. Catharines Standard* over the summer, promoting the role of architects in creating the Niagara built environments.

Website:

The NSoA website has been kept active, with ongoing contributions to the 'Ideas' section and other elements. On a typical day, the system records 25 pageviews for elements in 'Ideas' and 200 to 400 pagviews overall. The site manager reports that the site has more visits than any of the other sites he runs. Some members have reported that they have obtained business from people considering alternative firms from their information on the website.

Other Activities

Discussions and communications between NSoA members, the OAA, and the Niagara Catholic District School Board were conducted about the NCDSB's procurement methods.

Approaches were made to the St.Catharines Performing Arts Centre, about resuming the Architecture + Design film programme, with no resolution.

Contact was made with the St.Catharines Museum at Lock 3 with regard to the continuation of assistance in the curating of their drawing collection, following the passing of Mike Zuberec. Another member of the NSoA volunteered to continue working with them.

Summary of Income and Expenses: Niagara Society of Architects
Income and Expenses: January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Revenue

Membership fees from OAA	\$4,670.00
Educational Events:	<u>240.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE.....	\$4,910.00

Expenditures

Educational Events (May 27)	\$ 958.22
Scholarships:	2,400.00
Advertising:	1,412.25
Website:	339.00
Membership meetings	288.43
Niagara Falls walking tour sketches	<u>2,500.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	\$7,897.90

Operating Surplus / Deficit (-): - \$ 2,987.90