



February 20, 2024

2023 - Annual Report for Publication

St. Lawrence Valley Society of Architects

Co-Chair: Lukas Bergmark

Co-Chair: Chris Howard

Treasurer: Brian Heirlihy

Secretary: Shawn Butler

Our 2023 year felt like things were getting a bit more social again. Highlights included the Sudbury Conference Society Meeting, which we attended, our monthly pub nights, Special project funding success, initiation of SLVSA Urban Sketching, and the annual OAA president's visit. The monthly pub continued through 20203, with average attendance between 8 and 9 members. At these social events conversations span many topics from heritage restoration to business management. We are excited at how well our website is working to help keep in touch with the membership and to connect with the public through the promotion of architecture - we have new website upgrades planned for this spring.

Brian Heirlihy attended the Sudbury Conference Society Meeting ahead of the OAA conference. Brian reported on the successes of our outreach, membership involvement and active initiatives. The conference provided an important opportunity to share ideas in person, reconnect with colleagues and bring back ideas to our membership. We were all excited to learn about the

Special Project Funding Applications:

We applied for the balance of the funding for the ARchitecture project - Augmented Reality architecture, urban planning project and received the \$8,000 requested for a total of \$25,000 which was matched by Queen's university. The project is moving along well and is on target to have a proof of concept demonstration model ready this spring.

As we look ahead to this year, we have a couple initiatives planned. The first is a documentation exercise - this was borne out of Ray Zaback's eloquent, fascinating and often humorous anecdotes about the late Ernest Alvin Cromarty, know by most as "Al", who died on April 16, 2022. There was a richness about the life of this architect that many of us felt should be documented. Not wanting to wait until great local architect's die, the idea was put forward to interview and record conversations and host them on our website for the public to access.

Our second initiative is the Urban Sketching initiative which began in the summer and garnered quite a bit of interest. We discovered that there were several urban sketching groups in the



area. A new associate member managed to convince the various sketching groups to join forces. The new larger group, named Urban Sketchers - Kingston became official in the fall of 2023 with the SLVSA helping to promote their events. In the spirit of promoting architecture to the public, SLVSA has applied for special project funding to bring in an architect/ artist from Toronto to help teach a couple sketching classes for free to the public.

Website - SLVSA.ORG

The slvsa.org website launched in November of 2022, and continues to be a very useful tool for public outreach and connections within the society. We are still looking for a member of the society to take an active role in regular posts for social media. We also plan to roll out some new upgrades to the website this spring which will improve search features and streamline social media updates.

The Annual President's Visit

The Annual President's Visit was held virtually on October 11th from noon until 1:30. The visit was shared between SLVSA, ALGOMA and TSA. President, Settimo Vilardi addressed the membership, reviewed outcomes of the society's meeting earlier in the spring, spoke about opportunities to strengthen connections with the membership and the public and then there were remarks from Pro-Demnity Insurance. During the lead-up to the event both Algoma and SLVSA remarked that we had hoped this meeting would be in person this year. SLVSA membership was disappointed in the virtual format and hopes for a return to an in-person event soon. SLVSA commented to the OAA that the in-person president's visit has traditionally been a highlight for our membership, it is the event with the highest turnout. It was disappointing to hear that there was no immediate plan to return the *President's Visit* to an in-person event.

The executive will expand its methods of communicating and engaging with its membership and the public this year and will lean on the website and other social media platforms to do this. We hope our planned public outreach will be successful and will in-turn generate greater membership participation.

We look forward to sharing more exciting news soon.

Respectfully,

Chris Howard, OAA and Lukas Bergmark, OAA
Co-Cs hair, SLVSA Co-Chair, SLVSA
Architect, SZA Architect, HDR
