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Bimonthly Publication of The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects



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The purpose of Sitelines is to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to the profession of Landscape Architecture. Individual opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily of those of the BSCLA.

Communities in Transition

BY SARA MUIR OWEN

In 2004, the Real Estate Foundation of BC Established a signature programme called Communities in Transition, or CIT. The program focuses on addressing issues and challenges of planning for the use and conservation of land in light of anticipated, as well as unanticipated, economic, social and environmental changes in small towns and rural communities across the province. This unique partnership approach aims to share resources and information to address community land use planning needs and implement long term planning objectives to achieve community well being. The partnership recognizes that Landscape Architects play a key role in community planning and design and invites the profession, through the BCSLA, to access and share resources and information through the initiative.

In November of 2006, twenty-three people, including CIT Advisory Committee members, project recipients, program staff and Real Estate Foundation Governors came together to discuss CIT. Together, participants outlined the most promising implementation strategies to assist CIT in achieving its goals and to identify strategies to effectively share resources and information to support great projects. Results of the discussions are shaping the 2007 – 2010 CIT Strategic Plan. This process has helped to define the CIT vision and goals, to be pursued over the next four years. A draft, outlining specific objectives to achieve these goals is underway and will be presented to the Real Estate Foundation Board of Governors in June 2007. An official launch of the Plan is scheduled for September 2007. While details of the Plan are being developed, CIT continues to work toward its mission to support planning processes that balance social, environmental, economic, and governance to address regional and local land use and conservation issues in non-metropolitan areas of British Columbia. Since 2005, approximately thirty-one projects have received funding through the Real Estate Foundation under the CIT initiative.

One example of a project that received a Foundation grant (spring 2006) is the City of Rossland for its Sustainable Strategic Plan. The City of Rossland is a small community, a little less than 4,000 people, in south-central BC. Rossland is experiencing significant growth and change due to current and proposed tourism and residential development. With the recent start of high-end condominium developments (up to 2000 single family residential equivalent units) at the base of Red Mountain and the proposed Red Stone golf course expansion, including a resort and residential development of up to 400 single-family residential equivalent units; Rossland's population has the potential to grow by 50% *Continued on page 5*



*Landscape Architect Ron Rule,
photograph by Kim Stuart, Ron
Rule Consultants*

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Communities

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in the next three to five years. Rossland is quickly transforming from a bedroom community, tied to the economic and industrial centre of Trail, to a resort and tourism community. This rapid rate of change poses a number of challenges as well as opportunities. These changes are raising concerns about the potential social, economic and environmental elements of the community.

The broad goals of the Rossland Sustainability Plan are to meet public concern over the nature of change taking place in the immediate region and to position Rossland to benefit from these changes. Working with a consulting firm, Rossland has outlined a Visions to Action program that will: develop and emphasize sustainability criteria, build local civic capacity by engaging citizens in creating a plan that will lay the groundwork for long term community well being, build relationships within the community and region necessary to sustain this plan, and strive to generate a model for small community development within the province.

As outlined above, building social capacity and engaging the public in thinking about long term planning are core elements of this project. Issues such as the affordability and accessibility of housing for young families and working families as the community faces increased economic activity and higher property values will be addressed. The implications of part time residents and second home ownership, amenity migration and an increasing number of short term visitors will be explored.

An important component of the Sustainability Plan is to identify indicators and models of social, economic and environmental well being. Environmental amenities are already appreciated by Rossland's residents and the link between the community's economic well being and the integrity of the natural landscape is

recognized. Developers in the area are seeing that the natural systems, vistas and contexts are keys to the success of their residential and tourism developments. Part of the Visions to Action program will focus upon addressing the costs and benefits of development, emphasizing the need to sustain and enhance natural amenities in the region. The program will assist Rossland in identifying ways to develop as an attractive tourism destination as well as a complete community for amenity migrants who may bring with them knowledge or internet based businesses that are not location dependent.

As with many small towns in BC, jurisdictional conflicts and competition are a factor in the development of a sustainable Rossland. To that end, the project at its early stage has already included participation from the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary. Members of other local government bodies will participate as the process develops. Within the City of Rossland, the project and its outcomes are owned by the city. Mayor Gordon Smith and CAO Ron Campbell are among the civic leaders playing an active role on the project start-up steering committee and more than fifty citizens are expected to volunteer their time to participate on the project task force. The emphasis on public engagement will help to weld a long term commitment on the part of volunteer, elected, and municipal participants to the outcomes of the project.

For more information about the Rossland Sustainable Strategic Plan please visit the website at www.visionstoaction.ca or contact Erin McGuigan, City Contract Manager at visionstoaction@telus.net. Content for this article is drawn from a City of Rossland project overview, prepared by Hans Peter Meyer, in consultation with Graham Kenyon, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and Markus Kischnick, Planner, City of Rossland.

Other CIT projects recently funded (December 2006) by the Real Estate Foundation of BC include: \$20,000 for the District of Squamish in support of a second home ownership strategy for the District. \$20,000 for the Heiltsuk Tribal Council to assist with a Community Development Strategic Plan. \$30,500 for the District of Sechelt for community education related to the ongoing community visioning process (2006/07). \$50,000 for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society BC Chapter for a quantitative assessment of amenity migration in non-metropolitan communities of BC. \$60,000 for the Town of Smithers to research land use and community planning to accommodate economic and population growth, given the unprecedented number of major projects which are currently underway.

Please visit the CIT website at www.communitytransition.org for more information about these and other CIT projects completed and underway. We hope the cumulative expertise gained through these and other CIT projects will help British Columbia's non-metropolitan communities to create clear visions for their future, make appropriate land use decisions, and implement positive change. CIT is about helping communities to successfully apply long term planning to achieve community well being.

Sara Muir Owen is former Manager of Program Development – Real Estate Foundation



Linear City

A New Concept for Vancouver

BY ART COWIE, MBCSLA

A new linear city is currently being built in Vancouver, grafted onto the old infrastructure. The Canada Line transit corridor from downtown Vancouver to Richmond may be shaping up as a new linear city, with up to 100,000 new residents predicted along the line at several nodal points. With imagination, this could extend across Burrard Inlet, up Lonsdale to the base of Grouse Mountain, at the north end, and to Steveston at its southern terminus, close to a new waterfront park on the Fraser River. Conceived as a new tool for building the 21st century city, this could become a catalyst for a transit-dependent linkage of residential, industrial and recreational lands across the region, or a second chance to get it right.

At the heart of the GVRD Livable Region

Plan has been the concept of linked town centres, with a mix of commerce and residential areas, in a regional matrix of jobs and living areas, and designed to encourage people out of their cars. This Plan has been a failure, with industry choosing to locate elsewhere. But the concept need not be a failure, if existing brownfield industrial sites and new commercial areas are part of the equation.

The Linear City concept presents an opportunity to densify the existing residential areas, to redevelop brownfield sites along the North Fraser Arm and to the east of False Creek, and to link all to recreational opportunities and to the jobs in Downtown Vancouver. The Canada and Expo Lines facilitate office workers commuting into the central business district, which is slated to expand upward as the demand for addi-

tional office space increases, according to recent city staff studies (June 2007). The new office towers will most likely be located between Smithe and Robson and east of Granville. Older buildings will be targets for office redevelopment. Residential tower developers will then focus their attention further east and to new centres such as Oakridge, served by transit, as they find downtown less attractive.

Regional transit planners might have chosen a London, England circular approach to locating the transit lines with spurs running out to suburban communities. Instead Vancouver transit lines run to the heart of the city, which pretty well dictates a dense core. An extension of the Canada Line to North Vancouver under Burrard Inlet would relieve some future congestion as



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Linear City – Continued from page 6

many executives and office workers favour north shore residential living. This would also diminish the need for widening existing bridges or building new ones.

Since the provincial economy took off in 2001 there has been a strong real estate market in Vancouver and this is expected to continue for an indeterminate period. With the downtown peninsula almost built out, and the City wanting to focus more on commercial than residential in the downtown, Vancouver's low density residential neighbourhoods now have an opportunity to grow. The Mayor's eco-density policy in effect recognizes that this dynamic must occur if Vancouver is to continue to grow. But perhaps a more focused alternative approach is to concentrate on building a Linear City, along the Canada Line, using the catalysts provided by such large scale developments as Oakridge Centre and the 2010 Olympic Village, and then rebuilding some brownfield areas.

Oakridge

In the post war years, Vancouver adopted a suburban style of urban planning with wide streets, big landscaped gardens, and low lying ranchers. The former CPR lands bounded by Oak, Cambie, 41st and 57th were the centre of that approach. In the middle of this master planned community, as with many 1950's suburbs, is the mall.

Now over sixty years later, the owners of the mall, Ivanhoe Cambridge, are planning a twenty year master plan for redevelopment of the eleven hectare site. This coincides with the installation of the Canada Line and transit station at 41st and Cambie, which will provide access for many Vancouver residents and visitors. According to both the City and the developers, this opens up an opportunity of considerable additional mixed use in terms of commercial, residential, offices and potentially a hotel. The current vast surface parking areas will be transformed into urban uses, including attractive pedestrian friendly streets and landscaped open spaces. The concept plan calls for mainly

mid-rise structures with some high-rise residential towers to twenty-four storeys. According to the planning department, the project could have 1.2 million square feet of residential space with 1,200 units for 2,000 residents. Twenty percent of the units are for affordable housing. The eventual redevelopment plan will depend on a dialogue currently underway with the community and then a rezoning decision by city council.

Olympic Village

In three years, thousands of Olympic athletes will arrive in Vancouver to take up residence in the 2010 Olympic Village on the last remaining land for redevelopment on the southeast shore of False Creek. This nine block village is being designed as an example of environmental awareness and world class waterfront living.

The Millennium Group are championing the city's goal of merging sustainability with market housing. The future homeowners, after the athletes have left, will be the first to test a green path at a large scale in the city. The estimated 1,000 homes will have a unique setting of urban parks, plazas and shopping, and will carry the legacy of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games. Even before construction, interested buyers of the homes can register to be among the first owners living in what is sure to be an enviable place to live. To have a peak at what the development marketed as Millennium Water will look like see www.millenniumwater.com.

The whole of Cambie Street from False Creek to King Edward is slated for redevelopment and transit stations at Langara and 49th and Marine Drive will certainly inspire major scale redevelopment with thousands of new residents. New higher development will spread east and west along all arterials from transit stations.

Brownfield

Existing industrial areas east of False Creek and along the waterfront on the North Arm of the Fraser River provide opportunities to intensify industrial production and build additional job creation capacity into the

city, which is badly needed if industrial jobs are to not disappear entirely from Vancouver. Their location on or close to the Canada Line provides a great opportunity to revitalize derelict areas and breathe new life into a sagging sector of the local economy.

Extensions to the Canada Line

I have written about the potential extension of the line south to Steveston in article #118 "Bring the Country to the City" which can viewed on my Website. What is even more exciting is the potential extension to Grouse Mountain.

In the mid 1970's, while Director of Planning in Delta, I met a visionary developer by the name of Bruce McLaughlin from Toronto. He had written a book titled "100 Million Canadians: How will it happen?" Scanning the book again, I am amazed how his predictions are taking place. He is a true believer in Canada. The book covers many of the issues of population growth and the environment that are debating today at all levels of government. The book is well worth reading, if you can find a copy. It was published by McLaughlin Planning & Research Institute, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

Bruce McLaughlin bought Grouse Mountain in the 1970's and over three decades the family, under the leadership of son Stuart, has built a ski development with many recreation and resort tourist attractions. It is a great place to go for a days outing year round. The south face of Grouse Mountain would be a magnificent location for building a Greek like hillside community overlooking Greater Vancouver with the north terminus of the Canada Line at the bottom. The upper level could narrow and terminate at the ski area at the top. It would be an envious place to live.

Art Cowie thanks Graham Murchie, of PeoplePlans for editing this article and welcomes comments on this and other planning articles. Art can be contacted by email at: art@cowierowhouse.ca and website @ www.cowierowhouse.ca

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Green Roofs for Healthy Cities

A Continuing Education Course Review BY MEREDITH MITCHELL, MBCSLA

Lately there has been a concern with environmental sustainability and various municipalities are encouraging landscape architectural projects to be as environmentally friendly as possible. So I thought it would be a good idea to take a class to learn more about the subject.

Green Roof Design 101, presented by BCIT, was well presented, except for the timing - it could have been a two day seminar. The class was mostly well organized, the information was up-to-date and was useful for both theory and practice. The class rooms were comfortable and the equipment from BCIT worked well. BCIT supplied breakfast, lunch and snacks. Technicians were available for technical questions. The location of the classroom was easy to find and the school is easy to get to on the skytrain so you do not have to pay for all day parking in downtown Vancouver.

The class was a full day, from 8:30am to 5pm, in a classroom at the BCIT downtown campus, at 555 Seymour Street. The cost was \$345.00 for the day and this included: lecture cost, a booklet of information, a year membership in The Green Roofs for Healthy Cities Association, in which you receive several Sitelines size magazines and a monthly email, lunch and snacks from BCIT.

The schedule for the seminar had several parts: lectures and general discussion in the morning (with a coffee break), lunch, a field trip to the BCIT Green Roof Demonstration Garden, then back to the classroom to do a few class projects on building green roofs.

Lecturer Patrick Carey is an architect with several years of experience in the construction of green roofs. He has come to the point where green roofs are primarily what he does and he has also become a certified roofer to have as much information on the subject as possible. This background makes

his lecture very useful with tons of practical information on everything from correct soil particle sizes to the pricing of different types of green roofs.

The class was organized so that the morning was filled with discussions on general green roof information, such as: types of green roofs (intensive and extensive), how they are constructed, and coordinations between contractors and consultants. Also, there was discussion on, not only how green roofs are a benefit to a project from an environmental position; but how to justify a green roof to your client economically.

The information was well laid out, following a construction sequence from concrete slab to mulching. A lot of the information was practical and usable in the real world, with details and construction techniques and why certain products should always be included while others may be optional. There was no focus on any one technique or product and Carey made a particular effort to be unbiased in his recommendations for construction and types of materials. He also brought in samples of products for people to inspect. The class also received a workbook with descriptions and general specifications on green roof construction, which is well written and easy to pull information from. He also made an effort to include both American and Canadian measurements and even dollar conversions for the prices of the products.

There was a long discussion on the prices of green roofs and the cost of individual components, and where cost can be reduced, as required. He allowed questions during class and because of this the class discussion ran overlong, as lunch was scheduled before the field trip. After lunch, we met in the classroom and were taken to a bus which took us to the BCIT Demonstration Green Roof Garden. The person in charge

of the work, Maureen Connelly, gave us a short lecture on what BCIT was researching, which spanned: from the types of plant material available and their appropriateness to roof gardens, to technical research on water adsorption, retention, and runoff.

The coordination with the bus company could have been better arranged. As the bus was late, we had less time to visit the demonstration roof garden. After we returned to the classroom there was less time than anticipated for the group projects; so we instead reviewed the three scenarios as a class and discussed possibilities until 5pm. We then received certificates from the Green Roofs for Healthy Cities at the end of the class.

The only drawback of the course is that there is so much information that I would say that it should really become at least a two day course. There were several practical group projects planned for after lunch, however we never got to them after the field trip to see the demonstration green roof systems at the BCIT campus. However, I highly recommend taking Green Roof Design 101 and I believe this class should be endorsed by the BCSLA and the Continuing Education Committee.

Here is the information on the BCIT Green Roof Demonstration Gardens

<http://www.greenroof.bcit.ca/>
Great Northern Way Campus,
555 Great Northern Way, Vancouver,
British Columbia, V5T 1E2

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities
<http://www.greenroofs.net/index.php>

Information on the class.
http://www.greenroofs.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=39

Green Roof Soil

BY BILL HERMAN

After receiving requests from several of your members to investigate Green Roof Installation methods and soils, I wish to bring to your attention my work with Beaver Landscape and Stream Organics Management. Contact persons within both companies are Jack and Grant Cameron and Tom McConkey respectively.

Our method of installation may be currently viewed after one year on the roof top garden of the Diamond Pavilion at Vancouver General Hospital. To be brief, the planting mixture involves crumbled tiles rubber with commercially

prepared compost installed in plastic planting box systems. Each box offers a one inch rise at each corner to facilitate draining water to exit via perforation holes and to thereby travel along the building surface to the existing drainage. Plant materials may be installed at ground level prior to placement in roof top locations. This process allows for any renovation work to be done in the event of damage by building maintenance staff (for example: window cleaning). The angled side offered by the plastic box allows for irrigation pipe to be both hidden and also accessible if necessary.

Your questions are welcome. Please address questions to Bill Herman, PHD, Pacific Soil Analysis, 5 - 11720 Voyageur Way, Richmond, BC, V6X3G9, or telephone 604 - 273 - 8226.



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CONTACT: info_greenroof@bcit.ca
WEBSITE: http://www.greenroof.bcit.ca

What's in a Name?

BY JANE GREEN

Hi, I am Jane Green.

I am certain of that much. It is something one takes for granted. Individuality, that is: one spirit, one person, and one's name. But in my case it seems, my name is not as unique as I am.

Turns out there are a few of 'us' out there at the moment, and oddly enough 'we' are all in print. I was walking through Costco the other day, and there on the huge table full of discounted books were a stack of pink paperbacks by Jane Green. I haven't written and published anything either pink or paperbound.

On another recent occasion I was sitting in my car waiting for my daughter to finish her cello lesson, and while leafing through the May issue of Vancouver Magazine, discovered the bold statement "I was one of them...by Jane Green" as a teaser line in the magazine contents for a story about the Ellison case that has been in the Vancouver news over the past year or so. Although I had actually met Tom Ellison when I was the marina manager at False Creek Marinas in the early 1980s, I didn't know him as the Jane Green of the Vancouver Magazine did, and certainly wasn't one of them!

All right, admit it! Who has ever 'googled' themselves? I did once a few years ago and that is when I first discovered my romance-novel-writing alter ego who is responsible for the pink paperbacks. One of these days I may even read one of them. Funnily enough the Internet search also turned up my UBC MLA thesis, which is something I took a long time and great pleasure in writing.

It is a strange thing to see your name in print, when it isn't something you have initiated.

In this case at least, I am part of the decision that my name is in print in the guise of Guest Editor for this edition of Sitelines. Cameron Murray and Laura-Jean Kelly have tirelessly volunteered to be the editors of Sitelines for many years now, and have been looking for a new volunteer to help shoulder the load. Cameron and I talked about it at the last AGM and after long consideration I decided to step forward. Like selling a house that no one seems to want to buy, taking on the job of Editor seems to be one that one might have trouble giving away eventually. Deciding if I should make this commitment or not has been on my mind ever since the posting first appeared in the BCSLA Friday File.

Granted Jane Green is probably a very common name. I thought it was actually quite a good name for someone involved in landscape architecture. One certainly sees the word green used in everything from the promotion of environmental issues, either for philanthropic or profitable results, to landscape maintenance.

The integrity of one's name, and by default one's reputation, can be quickly compromised however, as evidenced by identity theft, which is basically the passing off by someone else your life's

Continued on page 12

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What's in a Name?

– Continued from page 11



Jane Green sketching 'en plein air' at the Cherry Blossom Festival, Granville Island

accumulation of the things accredited to your name for quick profit or worse. I know I was quite uncomfortable seeing my name attached to such an unpleasant saga as that in the Vancouver Magazine.

Landscape architects are not a large group, and your name and reputation is to some extent your stock in trade. The reputation is acquired through a mix of your personality and your skills as a professional, and that brings business to the door. Business referrals are

partially based on word of mouth, and your reputation and documented set of projects form part of what you have to offer in the marketplace.

Even the name Landscape Architect is intentionally restricted for the purpose of protecting our reputations as a group and distinguishing us from others through the establishment of professional standards aimed at ensuring competence in the field.

The BCSLA website defines that for us and I am including the appropriate excerpts below: *(Please see website for other categories)*

The mandate of the BCSLA is to foster the development and promotion of Landscape Architecture in the province of BC. The BCSLA was established by the enactment of the Architects (Landscape) Act as a self-governing professional Society among whose objectives include the furtherance and maintenance of proper standards of professional practice. This Act restricts the use of the title of Landscape Architect within British Columbia. While this does not prohibit people who are not registered from practicing landscape architecture, it does prohibit them from calling themselves Landscape Architects.

Designation

- (1) A person who is a member in good standing of the society is entitled to use the designation "Landscape Architect".
- (2) A person who is not a member in good standing of the society must not assume or use that designation in any manner or represent that the person is entitled to do so.

Use of Title

Every person who is a Registered Member in good standing of the Society is entitled to use the designation "Registered Landscape Architect"; no person who is not a Member in good standing of the Society may assume or use that designation in any manner or represent that he or she is entitled to do so.

A Registered Landscape Architect is a person admitted into Membership of the Society in accordance with the requirements of the BCSLA Bylaws and the Act, including qualification by education, examination and experience, payment of fees and annual fees when due, and compliance with the

requirements of professional conduct and standards.

It is a real mouth full at a cocktail party to respond to the "what do you do" question with the term intern landscape architect, and from there launch into the explanation of the difference between non-voting associate members including intern members, and voting members of the BCSLA including registered landscape architects, landscape architects and retired landscape architects. But what can one do? The designation is a benefit derived from meeting the requirements of experience and education, and can only be achieved by going through the steps.

So, one other thing I am certain about is that, as much as I would like to, I cannot yet add Landscape Architect to my name, at least according to the bylaws of the BCSLA. For now, until I actually do become a Registered Landscape Architect, I will remain Jane Green Intern Member of the BCSLA, and proud to be, as well as Guest Editor of the August issue of *Sitelines*.

Silva Cell Integrated Tree + Stormwater System

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New Communications

BY SONYA HWANG

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Sonya Hwang and I have been hired under contract by the BCSLA's Communications Subcommittee to help achieve the Society's stated goal of raising the profile of the profession. As a public relations professional, my goal is to try and raise the public profile of the BCSLA and build general awareness about Landscape Architecture and the role of landscape architects.

What is public relations? Public relations is any activity that helps promote a favourable relationship between an organization and its customers, prospects and the public. This includes influencing the media to promote an organization. In order to

accomplish this, story ideas are pitched to the media in an effort to try and generate interest that would result in editorial coverage. Story ideas can include trends, anything new or newsworthy, or other interesting bits of information that would appeal to the general public. Picking up the newspaper and having a look at what is being written about is a great way to understand just exactly what a story is.

In order to try and uncover new story ideas, I will be sending out regular requests for information. Any help that you could provide would be very greatly appreciated. For this first request, I am looking for any interesting projects that you or your firm might be working on. Perhaps it's a differ-

ent approach to a new park or development, a unique partnership or a project with a sustainability or climate change angle. Whatever it may be, please don't hesitate to send it my way. If you have any questions or would like to submit a story idea, please feel free to contact either myself or Dave Hutch. I can be reached at 604-932-0308, Dave at 604-983-7394.

Thank you in advance for your help, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Sonya Hwang / Ki Communications

Ph: 604 932 0308 / Cell: 604 902 1977 / sonya@kicomunications

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Made to Measure

A History of Land Surveying in British Columbia

by Katherine Gordon,
Sono Nis Press, Winlaw, 2006

Review by Cameron Murray MBCSLA

Katherine Gordon has created a well considered overview of the history of surveying in British Columbia. *Made to Measure* has recently been honoured with the Haig Brown Prize at the 2007 BC Book Awards. The work chronicles the remarkable influence of the profession of Land Surveyors over the course of a century of rapid changes in measuring techniques and in comprehending BC landscapes.

In the Nineteenth Century, the Royal Engineers combined aspects of military strategy, civil engineering, surveying, town planning and landscape architecture. Early streetscape patterns were prepared for Victoria, Nanaimo and New Westminster. Colonel Moody's plan for New Westminster included the Victorian novelty of integrated city parks.

The Forty-ninth Parallel, or Medicine Line, easily delineated on paper, required an elaborate process of negotiation between



British and American surveyors, nearly resulting in warfare over the San Juan Islands. The Alberta British Columbia survey was an exceptional achievement and surveyors required

mountaineering skills as well as trigonometry to follow the wandering watershed boundary across the Canadian Rockies. Provincial Surveyor Arthur Wheeler became the founding president of the Alpine Club of Canada, in 1907.

Techniques in landscape measurement continued to evolve to describe the dramatic topography of British Columbia. The invention of photography was soon adapted to provide photo topographical records,



RW Cautley, Alberta Boundary Survey, circa 1915.

as well as landscape panoramas. Surveyors carrying heavy photographic equipment to mountain summits soon hailed the adventure of aerial photography as a 'magnificent stride forward'. Jericho, in Vancouver became the first station for aerial survey work in Canada, in 1921, beginning with mapping the Fraser River. In 1947, Okanagan Helicopters engaged in an aerial survey of the Chilliwack area which was considered spectacularly successful.

The British Columbia Land Surveyors Act passed in 1905, six decades prior to the formation of the BCSLA. The requisite professional knowledge then encompassed: penmanship, othography, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Sobriety was also a valued attribute for membership. Drawing techniques have paralleled the changes in landscape architectural practices, as plans were first produced with ink lines on linen paper and reproduced by blueprint and photostatic methods. During the 1960's, the Olivetti 101 desk calculator first enabled trigonometric formulae and the computer was soon embraced with cautious enthusiasm as a "tireless, agile, obedient and infallible moron."

Continued on next page



Kettle River Survey, late Nineteenth Century.

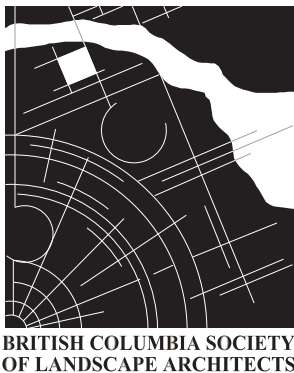


Made to Measure

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In 2005 the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors celebrated its one hundredth year as a professional association. Katherine Gordon has highlighted significant projects and a succession of changes that BC surveyors have encountered over time. The technical aspects of the profession are balanced with stories and legends from the field camps. The work opens a view upon BC history from a lofty vantage point – one that landscape architects will recognize as familiar terrain.

Aerial photography of Mount Waddington, circa 1959, G.S. Andrews photography, from Made to Measure.



BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

BCSLA Calendar of Events

August	BCSLA Credentials Committee Meeting
August 15-19	CELA Conference, Pennsylvania, USA
Sept. 18-20	C/LARE (Computerized Landscape Architectural Exams)
Sept. 7-8	CLARB Annual General Meeting, Cleveland, OH
Sept. 12-13	BCLNA CanWest Hort Show, Vancouver, BC
September 25	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
October 5	December Landscape Architectural Registration Exams (LARE) Registration Deadline
October 5-9	ASLA Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA
October 23	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
October 31	2008 Sitelines Annual Update Submissions
November 8	World Town Planning Day
November 22-23	BC Landscape and Nursery Association AGM
November 27	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
December 3-4	Landscape Architectural Registration Exams, Vancouver, BC
December 7	BCSLA Festive Season Party Bloedel Conservatory, Vancouver, BC
December 18	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
December 31	BCSLA 2008 Membership Dues Payable
December 31	BCSLA Continuing Education Form Submission Deadline

Commonly Asked Questions about the Board of Examiners

BY MARK VAUGHAN, MBCSLA

I am providing Questions and Answers to clarify the role of the BCSLA Board of Examiners and the procedure by which the Oral Examination of potential Members shall be conducted.

What is the role of BCSLA Board of Examiners?

To set and administer the examination necessary for the registration of Members in the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects.

To review the applicants qualifications and determine acceptability.

Who are the Board of Examiners?

As per the Architects (Landscape Act), RSBC 1996, c18, the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall appoint a Board of Examiners of not less than five (5) persons, among whom shall be:

- A person nominated by the Principal of Kwantlen University College.
- A person nominated by the Director of the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture of the University of British Columbia;
- A person nominated by the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science of the University of British Columbia.
- The President of the Society; and
- A person to represent the public interest in the furtherance and maintenance of proper standards of professional practice in Landscape Architecture in the Province.

The Past President of the BCSLA is the Chair of the Board of Examiners. The Registrar of the BCSLA is not a Member of the Board of Examiners, but is responsible for the presentation to the Board of all Applicants for membership.

What is expected of me?

Applicants will be expected to review experience, provide a small portfolio of 2-3 varied projects and answer any questions related to the professional practice of landscape architecture. The Applicant must also discuss the reason(s) for registration and involvement with BCSLA. At a minimum the Applicant must be prepared to demonstrate a working knowledge of the following:

- Builders' Lien Act
- Contract Administration
- BCSLA Code of Ethics
- BCSLA Bylaws & Procedures
- Insurance
- Reason for Registration and involvement with BCSLA. (This is not a question, just a general topic for discussion.

What are the most common areas of candidate weakness?

It is difficult to generalize about a candidate population as diverse as those who come before the Board of Examiners. However, areas of weakness for some of the recent candidates included a working understanding of the Builders' Lien Act, contract administration, insurance (personal and project related) and the preparation of proposals.

How is the Exam Administered?

A summary of each applicant member is sent to the Board of Examiners two weeks in advance of the sitting of the Board of Examiners.

The Board of Examiners will meet prior to the first scheduled appearance of an applicant to determine the session's specific questions and minimum passing answers based on the broad topics listed above.

The Registrar introduces each candidate to the Board.

The Chair of the Board welcomes the applicant and introduces the Board of Examiners.

The Chair of the Board reads the prepared statement (word for word) that explains the objectives of the oral exam.

The Chair will then ask the applicant to start with a five-minute review of experience followed by a five-minute presentation for two to three portfolio objects.

The Board will then question the applicant to determine their knowledge in the areas listed above. Each Board member will keep notes on responses by applicants. This should be kept to 15 minutes to allow equal time for all candidates throughout the day. Board Members are requested to ask questions and probe but not provide answers or lengthy explanations.

The Applicant will then be dismissed and the Board will deliberate for 10-15 minutes on the success of the applicant. A tentative decision will be recorded by the Registrar subject to an overall review at the end of the days' proceedings.

The Registrar will be notifying the Applicant by phone of the Board's decision the following business day. This will be followed by correspondence clearly outlining any concerns that the Board had with the Applicants' evaluation.

When does the Board of Examiners sit?

A sitting of the Board of Examiners will be held twice per year (spring & fall) if the number of applicants warrants this frequency.

Continued on page 12



Garden Design by Ron Rule Consultants



Garden Design by Ron Rule Consultants

Commonly Asked Questions

– Continued from page 16

Is there anything else that you would like to add?

The examination will be as objective as possible and is intended to determine your competence (or weak points) relative to Landscape Architectural practice in British Columbia. Having current knowledge of conditions of practice required to allow an individual to run their own office competently is our basic criterion for deciding whether or not you will be granted registration. We do not require that you be an expert in all facets of Landscape Architecture, but that you have the ability to clearly articulate your beliefs or your knowledge. However, if you are lacking in some of these areas, you must be able to demonstrate a mature and realistic approach to solving the everyday problems of the practising Landscape Architect.

I hope that this helps.

Mark Vaughan is Registrar of the BCSLA

For more information please contact the BCSLA office.

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