#### December · 2002

# LINES

## 2003 IFLA World Congress

## Landscapes on the Edge

The rate of landscape change throughout most areas of the world is staggering and unprecedented. Man has significantly

modified more than 90% of the land surface of the planet. Increasing populations, land use intensification, the use of marginal or fragile lands, rapid urbanization and the globalization of market economies is threatening the poetics, cultural responsiveness,

identity, biological diversity and system resilience of landscapes the world over. Many of our urban, rural and suburban landscapes are threatened and on the edge of irrevocable transformation.

The profession of landscape architecture with its emphasis on conservation and place making at scales ranging from the regional to the immediate, is well placed to address these important issues. The professional understanding of cultural imperatives and natural processes can lead to physical solutions that are ecologically sensitive and societally relevant, and that provide beauty and inspiration as well as economic health. Landscape architectural theory, research and practice provide much needed examples of potential or realized interventions to many of the critical issues of the day.

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This conference is about land-

scapes on the edge. Edge, in the sense of places on the edge of territorial transformation as well exemplar solutions that are on the cutting edge of theory, practice and technology, at a range of scales. The conference will bring together leading practitioners and theorists

from around the world to consider together ways of providing new or proven processes and solutions to today's design and planning issues. It will challenge the boundaries of the profession and invite critical thinking and intellectual enrichment. The conference will consist of noted speakers, scholarly papers and project presentations, and will include educational tours of western Canadian landscapes. Above all it will seek *solutions* that represent the very best the profession has to offer, worldwide.

Addresses by several notable practitioners and theorists will set the stage for critical contemplation and for celebration of landscape architectural practice. Confirmed speakers include:

- Thomas Homer Dixon
- Douglas Paterson
- Martha Schwartz
- Carl Steinitz

#### **Conference Location**

Join us in **Calgary, Alberta, Canada for the 2003 IFLA World Congress.** Calgary is a bright, fresh city perched between the prairies and the peaks of the Rocky Mountains. It is an urban interface at the edge of wilderness, and a young place at the leading edge of the world's technological and business frontiers. ) n g r e

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Short tours of the local landscape will be included in the conference program, and several post conference continued on page 2

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#### BCSLA

## sitelines

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The editorial deadline is the 8<sup>th</sup> and advertising deadline is the 16<sup>th</sup> day of the intervening months. Advertising rate information is available on request.

Inquiries regarding editorial, advertising or other issues should be addressed to the Sitelines Editor, c/o The BCSLA at the above address.

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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 those of the BCSLA.

#### The New Bachelor of Environmental Design Program at the University of British Columbia

By Doug Paterson

In January of this year the Provincial Ministry responsible for post secondary education in the province gave UBC permission to proceed with a full program proposal for an undergraduate degree in environmental design. Other environmentally related post secondary institutions in the province noted that their environmental programs had a science or policy focus but did not approach environmental issues from a design perspective. The Senate and Board of Governors subsequently approved a full curriculum proposal submitted to them in May of this year.

The Bachelor of Environmental Design Program (ENDS) is managed jointly by the Landscape Architecture Program in the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and the School of Architecture in the Faculty of Applied Science. It is to be housed in the MacMillan Building adjacent to the Landscape Architecture Program. Four new faculty will be

## Landscapes on the Edge ... continued from page 1

tours will allow more lengthy exploration of the magnificent landscapes of the Canadian West.

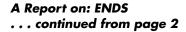
Please visit the congress website http://www.ifla2003.com/ for details and for registration information. hired for the Program including two landscape architects and two architects over the coming two years. Position announcements for the first two hires have gone out in the last week. Some 15 new students will be admitted to the Program this coming January with plans for the admission of a regular intake of 30 students in September of 2003.

The Environmental Design Program is not intended to be a professional program. It is seen instead as a preparatory program for those students wishing to become landscape architects, architects, or planners. Students who have ENDS degrees will be able to obtain MLA or MARCH degrees in two rather that the standard three years now currently required. At the same time they will end up having four years rather than the current three years of education which, we hope, will improve the quality of their overall design education.

The Program admits students to either the second or third years. As such, students may enroll in an undergraduate program of their choice in the province in their first one or two years of study. They are, however, encouraged to take a variety of courses in ecology, geography, and the social sciences. Major design education occurs in the third and four years of study with students specializing in either landscape architecture or architecture only in their last term of study. As such, the course is more about the sharing of architectural and landscape architectural knowledge and, we believe, will promote a new sense of cooperation between the professions.

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There will, of course, be students who choose not to continue their studies at the graduate level. Some of those students may wish to practice in the environmental design arena. It is hoped that their movement into the landscape architecture profession will be facilitated by the Society. We also hope that you will encourage a number of students interested in landscape architectural studies to enroll in our Environmental Design Program.

This is a very brief overview of the Program. If you have additional auestions or want specific course information please don't hesitate to give me a call or contact Martin Lewis, the acting Program Director.

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## UBC REPORTS: A Little Bragging

By Doug Paterson

I have not reported on UBC activities recently. So much has happened that it seems impossible to find the time for faculty to get together let alone keeping others in the proverbial loop. But my faculty colleagues are up to amazing things. So, in this report I thought I would take a moment to brag about their accomplishments.

Patrick Condon has been promoted to a Full Professor. He has done this in a very bold manner, by risking the traditional research route for a route of advocacy and the development of a set of intellectual and practical arguments for a more sustainable future. In short, he has obtained the lofty status of full professorship on the basis of projecting "what can be" versus the common route of analyzing "what is". In addition, over the last five years he has managed nearly 20 charrettes, undertaken well over \$250,000 in research, and given over 50 lectures elsewhere in Canada and the United States.

Susan Herrington has been granted tenure and promoted to

an Associate Professor. Her large body of research and publishing, her recognition as one of a handfull of Peter Wall Scholars last year at UBC and, of course, the 13 acres school competition are but a few of her many recent accomplishments. Hopefully many of you will have also purchased her recent text on the competition!

Don Luymes has been awarded a 2002 Killam Teaching Prize in the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, one of only a dozen university professors so recognized this year. He is, as many of you will know, the ideal teacher in manner, enthusiasm, knowledge, with a sense of fair play, educational innovation, and more. And he loves teaching about landscape architecture outside of the university as well, in numerous public lectures and continuing education courses.

Stephen Sheppard launched a second text last year related to landscape perception and landscape management. Stephen is now one of the top ten researchers in the world on landscape perception and has a steady stream of international researchers and students clamouring for more of his time and attention. Yet, while we only have 1/3 of Stephen's time in landscape architecture (the other 2/3rds of his time is in Forestry) we daily share in his generosity and, as most of you well know, his incredible support of our profession.

Patrick Mooney is in hiding this term to work on his Ph.D., and deservedly so. Having served as the Program Director for a number of years, his research work was generously put on the shelf. Patrick's extra efforts to undertake a Ph.D. at this point in time in his academic career, with his young family, while at the same time managing our Program's research degree testifies to the enormous hard work and dedication that Patrick has brought to the Program in his time at UBC.

Many of you have yet to meet two other important members of our Program, Will Marsh and Joanna Staniszkis. Professor Emeritus Will Marsh from the University of Michigan has brought a new sense of energy to landscape planning in our Program, is already a much-loved teacher, and is busy promoting the profession across the province in a wide-variety of landscape planning issues. Will is someone that everyone in the profession should learn a lot more about and from!

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UBC Reports

Joanna Staniszkis, as many of you will already know, is one of Canada's best-known and accomplished textile artists. She is at work on a major new exhibit in the spring of next year as well

### Why Are There So Many Purple Plums in Vancouver?

By Clive Justice

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When Vancouver Sun Garden Editor Steve Whysall interviewed Vancouver Parks Arborist Paul Montpellier for an August 9 feature on street trees; neither seemed to know why the City had so many Purple Plums. Arthur Lee Jacobson, who wrote the book Purple Leaf Plums in 1992, claims that Seattle has the most purple plums gracing its streets and gardens. Seattle also has the tallest purple plum. It measures 47.5 feet in height, with a branch spread of 58 feet on a trunk 2.8 feet in diameter. Victoria has the widest tree, measuring 44 feet in height, with 47 feet of branch spread on a trunk 2.35 feet in diameter. These are the largest of 50 different plums with purple leaves that Jacobson lists.

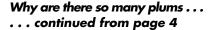
as preparing to teach in both our new Environmental Design Program as well as in Landscape Architecture.

Last but not least, of course, is Moura Quayle, our amazing Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences. Moura is completing, believe it or not, her first five-year term as Dean and intends to seek a second term at the helm. She has brought a new sense of sustainability ethics to the Faculty, sparked a new learning environment with the introduction of Problem Based Learning, along with other educational innovations, and is relentless in her promotion of the Faculty and Faculty fundraising. My only complaint is that I don't get to see her very often and from time to time suffer serious withdrawal symptoms (it was easier to give up smoking!).

Enough. We were accredited this spring; we have a large number of wonderful new students; and this has been an amazing autumn! We have a lot to be thankful for and, in particular, to thank my colleagues for!

These trees carry the name Pissard plum after the gardener who discovered it. Over a hundred and twenty years ago, as the story goes, Monsieur Pissard, French gardener to the Shah of Persia, found a branch with purple leaves on a Cherry Plum, Prunus cerasifera, growing in the Shah's garden. Cuttings from this branch produced trees that were introduced in France and named Prunus pissardii or Prunus cerasifera Pissardi or Prunus cerasifera Atropurpurea. The March/April appearance of pink flowers, turning to white and opening before the dark purple leaves, made it an instant success as a tree for street and garden. It was introduced in numbers in the 1940s when Vancouver established a tree nursery in Surrey. Most of the older Purple Plums on Vancouver streets are Pissardi's.

The purple branch story may be apocryphal because in 1893 the plant wizard Luther Burbank, in Santa Rosa California, listed in his catalogue a purple wine-glassshaped tree that bore large purple fruit. As an ornamental, it held the purple leaf colour all season. Burbank called it 'Purple Leaf Kelsey Plum'. As far as is known, it was never used as a street tree. It did prove, however that you can cross a purple leaf cherry plum like Pissardi and get darker purple cultivars with larger leaves and more fragrant flowers. The best known is the purple plum with large pink flowers introduced in 1905 by French nurseryman Blire. He called it Prunus blireana. It is a small round-headed tree, never more than 16 feet in height, with a 10 foot spread. A later addition, perhaps having the darkest purple leaves, is the plum introduced in 1954 by nurseries in Oregon. This is the clone called 'Trailblazer', or depending on which nursery you buy from, 'Hollywood'. Depending on which root understock it is grafted to it grows into either a continued on page 5





small 15 – 20 foot high or medium 25 – 35 foot tree within 10 years.

This writer goes back a little farther in time than the Sun Garden Editor and Vancouver's Chief Arborist and can remember why there are so many Purple Plums on the residential streets of the Pacific Northwest. It was mainly because the supply of electricity to post-war suburban homes was delivered by overhead wires strung on poles along the street to single story houses. Purple plums fitted well under electrical wires, didn't heave sidewalks as much as the Elms and Maples, and they were the right size to be in scale with the ranchstyle homes. The deep purple leaves on the Plums provided a colourful contrast to the painted siding and stucco, particularly the popular shrimp-pink to be seen on many houses in post-war suburbia. Most post-war subdivisions in the Pacific Northwest didn't have lanes for services so they ran along streets. Luckily, over most of Vancouver, power poles and underground services were in the lanes.

In the burgeoning suburban development of the 1940s and 1950s, the concern by power companies and municipal engineering authorities over damaging of infrastructure and power interruptions placed restrictions on street trees. In new subdivisions, trees had to be planted with the Engineer's permission, along narrow boulevard strips with power poles on one side, sewer and water lines on the other. In those early days engineering considerations dictated what tree variety could be selected that didn't exceed 25 feet in height or 15 feet in spread after 10 years.

Availability and immediate effect also played a hand in selection of

the Purple Plum. It was a colourful tree, easy to propagate from cuttings, fast growing and flowering before the leaves appeared. The cherry-sized plums didn't bear enough fruit to be a nuisance by falling to mess up the street or damage parked cars. The purple leaf plum hadn't been around long enough in the Pacific Northwest, where it grew best, for many to know that some varieties of Purple Plum grew much taller than 25 feet and much wider than 15 feet. Leaves and petals were also small enough and few enough on young trees that they blew away and disappeared over the winter.

In Portland, in those early postwar days, homeowners in new subdivisions were encouraged to buy and plant their own street trees in front of their houses. In the 1960s the power company in Portland commissioned Desmond Muirhead, a pioneer Vancouver Landscape Architect, to write a booklet for the siteLines·12·02

**ROUNDS** 

homeowner about where and what trees to plant on the streets where they lived and how to care for them. This was many years before there were professional arborists and urban foresters. You must also realize that in the Pacific Northwest the expertise was in cutting down trees not planting them.

I started out hating the Purple Plum, but now I love them. As a coastal British Columbia native, I can take a perverse pleasure in telling my Vancouver elementary school Tree-Keepers that every year, in mid-March to late April, when the Purple Plums bloom in their school yards and along the streets around the school, the rest of Canada, even with global warming, is almost certainly under several feet of snow!



Doctor Clive Justice, photographed by Adrienne Brown at the CSLA Board of Governers banquet on November 22, in Vancouver. Clive has just completed the requirements for the degree Doctor of Philosophy at Simon Fraser University.



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## AWARD CATEGORIES

#### BCSLA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Five awards are offered, one from each of the following categories:

#### **1. THE INDIVIDUAL AWARD:**

recognizing an individual or couple who have, in their day to day activities, made the landscape of our world a more delightful and better place to live whether it be in their creation of a small garden that many people enjoy or in their campaign to preserve a portion of our environment.

#### 2. THE Q'PANGO AWARD:

recognizing a Quasi-Public Agency or Non-Governmental Organization that has made major contributions to our local, provincial or national landscapes through its advocacy its policy, design-planning or conservation initiatives.

#### 3. THE PUBLIC SERVANT — PUBLIC AGENCY AWARD:

thanking an individual who or an agency that has made major advances in the design, planning and management of place, has demonstrated innovation in that work, and has shown respect for and consideration of the landscape architecture profession.

#### 4. THE CONTRACTOR AWARD:

presented to a contracting firm that, in the opinion of the profession, has done an outstanding job of bringing one or several important projects to completion or, has consistently demonstrated a high quality of professionalism, workmanship and pride in their work.

#### **5. THE CORPORATE AWARD:**

recognizing a corporation that has consistently provided a high quality environment as part of its everyday activities. The corporation could be a developer, a major business, or even a small business that has done an outstanding job of integrating their business activities and facilities into the fabric of our city or countryside.

#### With respect to the selection of these awards please note some of the following conditions:

- It is the intention of the Society to make awards only when there are suitable and significant candidates.
- The awards will be made across all regions of the province. As such, in any given year at least one award will be made representing the Vancouver Island region and one award will be made representing the Interior. In addition, the Society will seek

worthy candidates from other regions of the province.

 Where two worthy candidates exist in one category and no candidate has been nominated in another category, the Society may consider both of those candidates for awards in the same year.

The BCSLA AGM is slated for March 7 and 8, 2003 at the Empire Landmark Hotel and Conference Centre. Adrienne Brown, Past President and Nominations Committee Chair, is tasked with organizing the BCSLA Community Service Awards for presentation at the AGM dinner. The Awards offers us a unique opportunity to recognize and honour our "best citizens". Put your thinking caps on and give us your best advice.

If you submitted a candidate's name last year you may wish to consider resubmitting. Each submission should be accompanied by a one-page description on why you believe the candidate deserves the award. The information will also be used for media releases.

Return completed forms that are included separately with this edition of the newsletter by January 15, 2003 to:

#### BCSLA

#110, 355 Burrard Street Vancouver, BC V6C 2G8 🖾

On behalf of the BCSLA Board of Directors we wish everyone and their families all the very best for 2003.





### BCSLA 2003 Call For Nominations to the Board



Treasurer

(6) Directors

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The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects (BCSLA) **Board of Directors** is comprised of the following:

- President President-Elect
- Past President
- Registrar

#### And **non-voting members:**

- UBC Representative
- UBC Student Representative
- Associate (Intern) Landscape Architect Representative

At the BCSLA 2003 Annual General Meeting Will McKenna will assume the role of President and Peter Kreuk will become Past President. Three directors will begin serving their second year of the two-year term: Joe Fry, Lindsay Gowler and David Rose, while Ron Myers, Al Neufeld and Barry Potvin will either step down, or accept nominations for re-election.

#### The following positions will be open:

- President-Elect
   Director 2
- Director 1 Director 3

The President-Elect for 2003 is scheduled to assume the role of CSLA Board of Governors representative for two years after their year as President.

To put your name forward or for more information please contact the BCSLA office or Adrienne Brown at (604) 986-9058 or via email at adriennebrown@telus.net.

## **Call For Nominations for Exceptional Contribution**

#### **Exceptional Contribution to the BCSLA in 2002:**

All Members of the BCSLA are invited to send in nominations for Exceptional Service to the Society in the past year. A statement regarding the nature and extent of the contribution will assist the Board of Directors in evaluating the nomination. The deadline for nominations is **January 15, 2003.** They may be sent to Tara Culham at the BCSLA office.

## Award for Significant Contribution to the Profession on the Part of a Landscape Architect in Public Practice:

All Members of the BCSLA are invited to send in nominations for this award. The BCSLA Board of Directors is looking for examples of Members working in public practice who are making a lasting contribution to the profession and its relationship with local government and the public. Please provide a short explanation of the nature of the contributions and recent accomplishments of the nominee. The deadline for nominations is **January 15, 2003.** They may be sent to Tara Culham at the BCSLA office.



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The Landscape Architecture Program and the School of Architecture at the University of British Columbia invite applications for two full-time tenure track positions at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor. The appointments will commence effective 1 July 2003 or as soon as possible thereafter. Prior evidence and the continuing promise of achieving distinction in design, teaching and related scholarship is a prerequisite for the positions. At minimum applicants must hold a terminal professional degree in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design or Environmental Design. A design or history and theory degree at the PhD level is preferred. Candidates may also be considered for the concurrent administrative position of Director of the Environmental Design Program. (In addition, some candidates may also be considered for another concurrent position of Director of the Landscape Architecture Program). Salary is according to rank and experience.

The Landscape Architecture Program and the School of Architecture provide graduate-level settings for both professional and research students in the context of a large, public research university located in the compelling circumstances of the Vancouver metropolitan area. A strong and diverse faculty combine with exemplary faculty/student teaching ratios to provide a collegial milieu that is truly enviable among similar programs across North America.

These two appointments look to consolidate and extend both programs' considerable strengths

#### **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

#### The Landscape Architecture Program and The School of Architecture

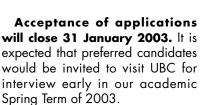
#### The University of British Columbia Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

#### **Faculty Positions in Environmental Design**

within the newly established undergraduate Environmental Design Program [ENDS]. Successful candidates will be expected as their primary role to teach design studios at all levels of the ENDS Program. The program was inaugurated in 2002 and leads to the Bachelor of Environmental Design Degree. In this context, candidates are encouraged with a commitment to creative pedagogy, including the implementation of effective strategies in foundation design, ecological and sustainable principles, the use of new digital media, and the ability to ground the requisite needs of an emerging pre-professional program in an innovative, interdisciplinary and considered intellectual context.

Each appointment will reside in its respective professional program for purposes of administration, tenure and promotion consideration, and governance. ENDS faculty will also serve as thesis and directed study mentors within the professional Architecture or Landscape Architecture programs, and deliver seminar/lecture courses in their area(s) of expertise, contributing to both core and elective elements within the ENDS. MArch and MLArch curricula. Candidates will also be expected to contribute to School, Faculty and University governance and to pursue a course of structured research, which may include critical professional practice or related creative endeavour. Full-time faculty members also contribute on a regular basis to the Master of Advanced Studies in Architecture and Master of Advanced Studies in Landscape Architecture programs for post-professional research students.

Interested candidates should submit an application package that consists of a short biography and curriculum vitae, a statement of interest including proposed areas of teaching and research priorities as well as evidence of their own creative and scholarly works. Evidence of student work done under their guidance may be included where appropriate. The package should also include a list of three references including names and appropriate contact information.



In the first instance, please send application packages to:

Chris MacDonald, Chair Faculty Search Committee Environmental Design Program [ENDS] The University of British Columbia 402 - 6333 Memorial Road Vancouver, British Columbia Canada V6T 1Z2

For further information regarding the ENDS Program and Curriculum, please visit: www.ends.agsci.ubc.ca or www.ends.arch.ubc.ca.

UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. We encourage all qualified persons to apply. In accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada.



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## noticeboard



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### **BCSLA 2003 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

January 15	BCSLA Community Service Awards Nominations Deadline	
January 15	BCSLA Contribution Award Nominations Deadline	
January 28	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting Vancouver, BC	
January 31	BCSLA Membership Application Deadline	
January	BCSLA Nominating Committee Meeting Vancouver, BC	
January 31	CSLA Professional Awards Submission Deadline	
February	BCSLA Credentials Committee Meeting Vancouver, BC	
February	December 2002 LARE Results	
February	Special Sitting of the BCSLA Board of Examiners Vancouver, BC	
February 12	BCSLA Public Sector Sub-Committee Meeting Vancouver City Hall — Vancouver, BC	
February 25	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting Vancouver, BC	
February 27	Cornelia Hahn Oberlander Lecture: <i>Featuring: Carol Franklin, FASLA</i> C400 UBC Robson Square — Vancouver, BC	
February 27 – 28	CSLA Professional Awards Adjudication Winnipeg, MB	
February 28 – March 2	CLARB Spring Meeting Austin, TX	
March 7 – 8	BCSLA Annual General Meeting Empire Landmark Hotel & Conference Centre — Vancouver, BC	
March 25	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting Vancouver, BC	
April 22	BCSLA Board/Fellows Meeting Vancouver, BC	
April 10	LARE Candidate Orders	
April 20 – 28	Landscape Architecture Week (Canada and USA)	
May	BCSLA Board of Examiners	

noticeboard





## noticeboard

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A reminder that the **2003 BCSLA Membership dues are payable December 31, 2002.** Invoices were mailed out at the end of November. You will notice that the dues have increased slightly to cover the cost of expenses passed on to BCSLA by CSLA.

BCSLA Membership dues were last increased in 1995, and given the low rate of inflation revenue has been sufficient. However, in 2000 CSLA added an additional charge of \$16 per member to cover costs of production for Landscapes/Paysages magazine, and CSLA dues also increased by \$5 in April 2001. BCSLA has been covering these costs out of general revenue, however this cannot be sustained indefinitely. The BCSLA portion of the dues has not increased. Goodbye and thank you to Andrew Wilson who has left BC to pursue other opportunities in the United States.

Andrew was a valuable Member of BCSLA who served in many capacities as a BCSLA volunteer.

Congratulations to **Thomas Gould, Don Hester, Kathryn McFadden Rivard and Mark Vaughan** on successfully passing the Board of Examiners oral exams.

> We are pleased to welcome you as Registered Members and wish you success in your careers.

The next sitting of the Board of Examiners will be Spring 2003.

