

President's Report

Will McKenna is the President of the BCSLA and a GVRD Regional Parks Planner. He graduated from the University of Toronto (BLA) in 1974 and has been a member of the AALA, OALA and BCSLA.

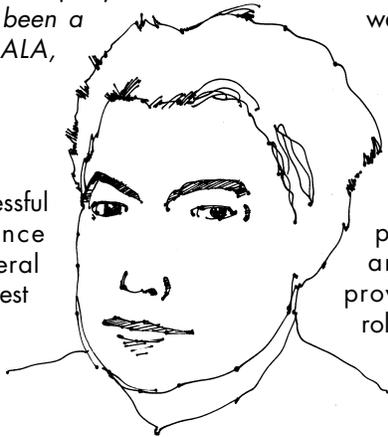
BCSLA Conference

The recent successful BCSLA Conference and Annual General Meeting had the best attendance in recent memory and reinforced the trend of previous years of providing a well planned and informative program. A major goal of the conference committee was to provide leading edge information to the membership and like-minded professionals on relevant issues concerning sustainability.

Besides providing information, the conference was also structured to assist in the development of advocacy issues for us, as a Society and as individuals, so that we as practitioners may take a lead role in the creation of sustainable communities. As landscape architects, we provide a unique and relevant perspective that leads to sustainable

landscape decisions. It is important as a Society to be proactive in issues of concern to us.

Professionally, we are well equipped to present new techniques and information to our professional colleagues. We can and need to declare what our profession stands for and in doing so provide a leadership role in the continuing development of the province's landscapes.



Will McKenna

Drawing by Cameron Murray

The Future

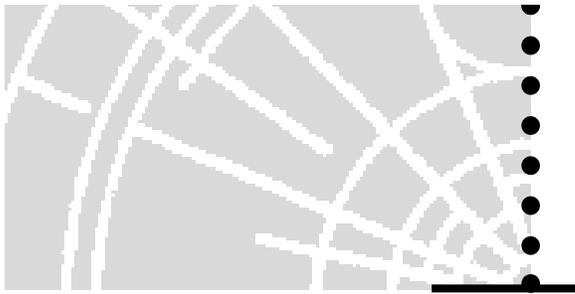
The next year will see the BCSLA building on the con-

tinuity of past Boards. Our visioning exercise will be taken to implementation and previous initiatives will continue to ensure continuity of leadership. We will continue to raise our standards and expectations of ourselves and our BC communities. The Society's largest challenge is to find enough volunteers to implement the tasks outlined in the visioning statement. A resulting policy is to only implement new initiatives when we know we have the volunteer help and financials resources to ensure

success of the program.

We intend to continue to provide strong leadership in the areas of administration and registration which are key to our Society's long-term success. The past few years have focused on bringing our Bylaws up to date. LAP II has been completed successfully with no small amount of effort by Members. LAP II introduced a new category of Membership which we intend to develop so that qualified professionals of varying abilities (non-traditional) can participate in our organization. LAP III, which began last year, will see us introduce changes to our legislation, thus completing the work for the Landscape Architecture Project. Finally, we intend to continue to strive to promote the profession in all areas of the province. ☒

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fellows

Canadian Society of Landscape Architects



L' Association des architectes paysagistes du Canada

BCSLA

sitelines

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Sitelines is published 6 times a year: February, April, June, August, October and December, by the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects and is mailed to all BCSLA members; registered landscape architects, associates and affiliates.

The editorial deadline is the 8th and advertising deadline is the 16th 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.

College of Fellows

Fellows announced for 2003

The Jury of Fellows has completed its deliberations after the extensive review of the nominations received from five of the CSLA component organizations. Subsequently, **John B. MacLeod, FCSLA, Chair of the College of Fellows, has announced that the following successful nominees will be inducted into the College of Fellows:**

Mr. Alan S. Duncan, BCSLA
Mr. Richard Gaudreau, AAPQ
Mr. John B. Hillier, OALA
Ms. Donna Hinde, OALA
Mr. Peter G. Kreuk, BCSLA
Mr. Dominic Lunardo, OALA
Prof. Patrick F. Mooney, BCSLA
Mr. David J. Reid, BCSLA
Mme. Marie-Claude Robert, AAPQ
Mr. Andre A. Schwabenbauer, AALA
Mr. Richard A. Strong, OALA

The induction of the Fellows-Elect will take place at a special banquet and investiture ceremony to be held during the **2003 IFLA World Congress in Calgary**. Any Congress participant interested is invited to attend this prestigious event, as long as tickets are still available. It is of particular interest that, for the first time ever, a CSLA President during his term of office is among the inductees.

All eleven Fellows-Elect have distinguished themselves through their extra-ordinary, inspiring and enduring contributions to our profession during a long period of time. **Election to Fellow is the highest honour the Society bestows on its members, well deserved by the 2003 class of Fellows.** ☒

b c s l a



f e l l o w s



John Blair (1820 – 1906) Pioneer Landscape Architect

By Bill Dale

Bill Dale, a retired civil engineer, has conducted extensive research on the life and times of Nineteenth Century landscape designer John Blair. Blair won the competition to design Beacon Hill Park in Victoria BC in 1889.

There is no doubt why **Victoria, British Columbia**, can claim to be the **Garden City of Canada**. In addition to having a good climate for gardening, it has the advantage of having one of the world's greatest landscape designers build the beautiful Beacon Hill Park in 1889 — John Blair. This Park has served as an example to Victorians ever since and has resulted in many beautiful gardens throughout the city.

The first thing Blair did when he won the competition for the design of the park was to hire another Scot as his foreman — George Fraser. Fraser, who in 1894 moved to Ucluelet, where he lived for the next 50 years, became one of the world's greatest rhododendron growers and hybridizers. In 1991 he would be posthumously given the prestigious Pioneers achievement award by the American Rhododendron Society — a rarely given award.

Blair was born near Callander Scotland and it was Tanrick Castle where he served his apprenticeship. He married in 1848 and he and his wife immigrated to Canada in 1851. He worked in St. Catharines, Ontario for three years



Beacon Hill Park, Victoria
Photograph by Cameron Murray

before he was given a job to design the grounds surrounding the new home of John Holland in Rockford Illinois. He said he took his lessons from nature and he was inspired by the natural picture around him in his homeland so beautifully described by Scot in his 'Lady of the Lake'.

His career progressed rapidly. He left Rockford in 1865 and went to Chicago where he worked for the Parks Department and became Superintendent of Parks in that city. In 1871 Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked the lantern over which started the great fire. There was no money to spend on parks so he found himself out of a job. He journeyed to Colorado Springs where he built parks, walkways, cemeteries and other public gardens, in that growing city.

Blair next traveled to San Francisco to meet with Luther

Burbank, the famous hybridizer. While there, he heard of beautiful available land on Vancouver Island so he came up to have a look. Impressed, he settled at Sahtlam, near Duncan, and stayed during his remaining years. In the meantime, he gave up the idea of ever returning to Chicago and in 1886 sold his home to a young aspiring architect by the name of Frank Lloyd Wright. Today that house is the office of the Frank Lloyd Wright Historic Site and Studio in Oak Park.

As mentioned earlier, he won the competition to build Beacon Hill Park in 1889. This was his crowning achievement and all Victorians have benefited from Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicking over the lantern, as Blair's greatest work was right here. He died in 1906 and is buried at Mountain View cemetery in Duncan beside his wife Jane. ☒

HISTORY



HISTORY



Landscapes in New Zealand

By Kevin Connery

Kevin is a former President of the BCSLA and is currently teaching Landscape Architecture at Lincoln University, Christchurch.

For many, the idea of New Zealand conjures up an Arcadian sensibility of verdant fields, vast open spaces, a benign climate and convivial company. This much is true. New Zealand is one quarter the size of British Columbia, with four million people and more than sixteen million sheep. It supplies thirty percent of the world's dairy products, invented jet boats and bungee jumping, and is as fanatical about rugby as Canada is about hockey.

Between North and South Islands are numerous majestic landscapes that include active volcanoes, expansive agricultural operations, world class wine growing regions and idyllic coastlines. Lonely Planet opens its travel guide to New Zealand with "a reputation for being clean and green is well-deserved". In fact the Clean and Green image has been coined and nurtured by the federal government. This impression has been reinforced recently by Peter Jackson, the Kiwi director of *Lord of the Rings*, who has featured New Zealand as the backdrop for the dark Trilogy.

What is not commonly shared about this country is that eighty-five percent of the population is urbanized.

Seventy-five percent of New Zealand's land base has been fundamentally changed. It retains but ten percent of its original wetlands. The species extinction rate is among the highest in the world. In the last fifteen years, ownership of automobiles has virtually doubled. And sadly, its iconic flightless bird, the Kiwi, clings precariously to life in a few remnant forests and on protected island refuges.

Local ecologists laugh ironically when the Clean and Green slogan is mentioned. In the 180 years since colonists arrived, the landscapes of this country have been transformed more quickly than the landscapes of any other country on earth. The tender soils and unique plant communities that, prior to colonization, had not experienced hoof-based animals have been unable to withstand the introduction of tens of millions of cattle, sheep and deer. Native flora and fauna have been displaced by exotics, most of which thrive in the amiable conditions.

It is within this paradoxical landscape that New Zealand landscape architects work. The New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects is the official representative of the profession. There are approximately 300 Full, Associate and Student members. Beyond a handful of larger firms with multiple offices around the country, most practitioners are one to three person offices. Full membership costs approximately \$500 and requires the regular accumulation of Continuing Professional Development credits to maintain status with NZILA.

Most practitioners dream of prime consultancies and of supportive clients that are elusive for most.

In general, the private sector operates in familiar ways with fewer competitive fee proposals and more commissions awarded based on relationships, platonic ones that is. In a few of the larger cities in NZ and Australia, architectural and landscape architectural services are often found within autonomous design departments that are entitled to pursue work outside their immediate governmental boundaries. For instance, a competition for a new waterfront park in Wellington, has come down to four teams, one of which is a collaboration between a local landscape architect and the public works department of Sydney, Australia.

On the subject of competitions, these are more frequently used to explore ideas for public buildings and landscapes than in British Columbia. The newest national museum in Wellington, Te Papa is one such example, though given its poor relationship to its waterfront location it illustrates that competitions do not ensure good design.

The principal difference between practice in NZ and BC is the Resource Management Act. This federal act gained assent in 1991 to replace the former Town and Country Act. In theory, the RMA is an overarching planning framework that was intended to clarify where and how development could occur. Its purpose is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources and enable communities to provide for social, economic, and cultural wellbeing.

Twelve years after its adoption the issue of whether the RMA has brought certainty to land development is a hotly debated subject. Developers claim it has led to

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Landscapes in New Zealand
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more onerous and costly reviews while conservationists argue it has enabled the development of previously protected lands. What is clear is that all local and regional governments are obligated to amend their planning policies and documents to conform to the structure of the RMA. And as development applications continue, the RMA has proven to be a boon for landscape architects.

If a development application does not conform to the new planning regulations it may be required to undergo an Environment Court Hearing. The court hearing is presided over by a federally appointed judge and evidence is presented by proponents and opponents. Often key parts of the evidence address landscape character and visual impact issues. This means landscape architects are asked to provide expert witness testimony for either side and typically submit visual simulations to illustrate potential impacts. The result is a growth industry for landscape architects.

In terms of general design and construction practices, it appears public landscapes are severely under-funded. I recognize the same can be said for most British Columbia communities; but in New Zealand the cities are relatively small and there are fewer capital resources, and lower tax rates contributing to a smaller pool of funds. Furthermore there is a reluctance to extract public amenities as quid pro quo for developing. First priority for capital works is given to active recreation facilities for rugby, football, cricket or netball. Consequently, plazas and streetscapes are treated in a mundane and utilitarian manner,

outside of a few areas in Auckland and Wellington.

Sidewalks are typically hot rolled asphalt with hastily cast concrete curbs, and roadways are chip seal or macadam. These surfaces quickly become uneven which in turn leads to poor drainage and further deterioration. The result is an unfriendly landscape for the visually or mobility impaired. In general the quality of finished concrete is substandard, in part due to inadequate hydration protocols. I have yet to see burlap covers and watering of concrete flat work. And honeycombing is not uncommon.

Ornamental streetlights are also rare. Most are typically comprised of gray concrete poles with white fluorescent cobra heads. These give way to yellow optics at certain intersections. They are meant to portend caution, although there is little evidence drivers pay attention to such subtleties. The net effect on the evening landscape is an odd wash of cool light. That being said they are energy efficient.

The two most common woods used in construction are exotics — Radiata Pine, and Oregon, aka Douglas Fir. Indigenous hardwoods have become relatively rare due to over-harvesting during the last 150 years. In particular the Kauri tree of the north, its trunk as large as a redwood and wood as strong and beautiful as oak, was decimated with but a few giants remaining in protected reserves. And despite the beautiful indigenous, metamorphic and sedimentary stones that can be found in New Zealand, Chinese granite has made significant inroads. Sound familiar?

Notwithstanding these observations there are notable exceptions. For instance Christchurch City

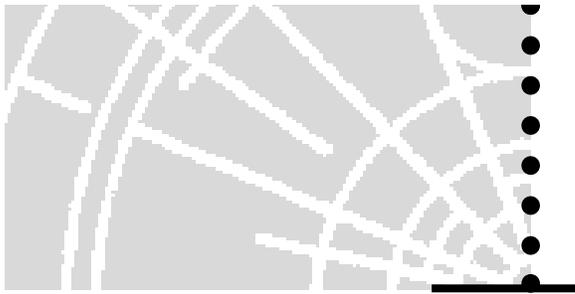
Council's ongoing land acquisition program has seen large sections of land purchased and placed into an ever growing, linked system of open space. Other similar programs exist around the country.

And finally a word about Academia, which is what brought me down here. There are three BLA degree programs in NZ, which is rather confusing for a country with a population of four million. Canada in contrast has two BLA programs. Lincoln University is the oldest and largest. Established thirty years ago, it was the one of first landscape architecture programs in the Southern Hemisphere. We have approximately one hundred and twenty undergraduates, and two dozen graduate and Ph.D. students. The other two programs reside in Auckland and Wellington respectively.

In conclusion New Zealand is indeed Clean and Green, but there are some brown patches and grey clouds. The landscapes are remarkable with tremendous variation in a relatively small area — a miniature synthesis of California, Oregon, Washington and BC. It is also a country with tension and conflict, with opportunity and hesitation. In many wonderful and confusing ways New Zealand is a country that is simultaneously confident and insecure, certain about some things and confused about others. It is definitely worth a visit. So if your travels find you in Christchurch, feel free to contact me. From New Zealand — Aotearoa — Land of the Long White Cloud. ☒



respondence



Review

13 Acres

Schoolyard Park: 13 Acres International Design Competition, by Susan Herrington, UBC, Vancouver, 2002.

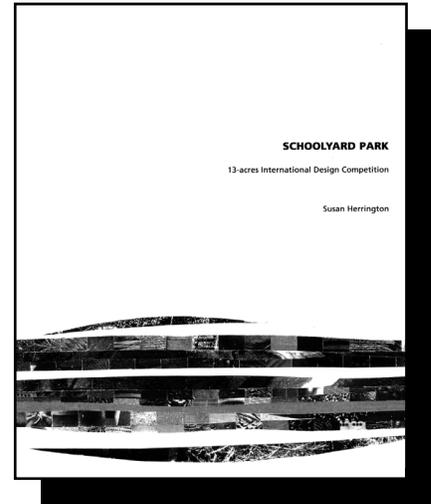
Review by Kate Davis-Johnson BCSLA

Schoolyard Park is the narrative of a design competition for two school sites in Surrey BC. The book describes the process of a design competition, including program requirements, intentions and submissions. The future school sites called 'Wet' and 'Dry', are dedicated for both schools and parks within a planned community of 13,000 people. The community will be developed over the next fifteen years. International interest in this competition was astonishing, with 254 submissions from thirty-three countries. The book introduces jury members, providing interesting backgrounds for each, and outlines the deliberations and award selections for First, Second and Third Place as well as Honourable Mentions.

Core to the narrative of the competition is the philosophy behind the functional intent of the 13-acre landscape. Susan Herrington writes: "Idea competitions like 13-acres enable designers to investigate and reflect upon issues central to landscape architecture that might not fit within their current sphere of practice. These can range from connecting learning environments with the dynamics

of natural systems, exploring the cultural importance of public space, expressing abstract concepts through physical form, accommodating evolving programmatic issues, and investigating new ways of communicating these ideas." It is evident that much is required in order to bring forth designs of this magnitude and sophistication. Schoolyard Park presents ideas seeking to bring together children and their outdoor surroundings, especially through elements of surprise, poetry and whimsy. The community is also encouraged to use both Schoolyard and Park. The dialogue of the opening chapters is complemented by an ingenious use of images.

Program requirements described in the competition packages are found in the Appendix. Arguably, this section might have been beneficial to the reader if presented at the beginning of the book. The program demands a poetic response to the requirements of site, community and the children's experiences. A theme throughout descriptions of the programming for Schoolyard and Park is the element of water, particularly stormwater. The competition's philosophy is about the endeavour to situate children into a landscape and architectural system which can provide an ecological, cultural, sustainable environment to sprout learning, imagination and an involvement with nature. Interpretations of this very tall-ordered program are wonderfully described by Susan Herrington. Although plans and computer images submitted are somewhat difficult to associate with what is being described, the structure, layout and imagery of this book



is a fascinating experience for the reader.

In the chapter, "Jury Report of the Prized Entries", the design philosophy and objectives of the program come together. Comments from the jurors are quoted and provide an insight into what has been sought in the competition and whether or not the program has been translated into effective design solutions. Schoolyard Park is inspirational and provides the language and imagery which bring us all back to the power of design. Inspiration is found in current thinking that the Earth needs to replenish itself in a sustainable system and that children can take part in this system as part of their everyday educational experience. In this sense, the book is of great use to designers and educators in understanding that we can think 'outside the box' without imposed fears for safety issues, regulations and liable suits.

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Our Ecological Footprint. Reducing Human Impact on the Earth.

By Mathis Wackernagel & William Rees. *New Society Publishers, Gabriola Island B.C.*

Review by Philip Tattersfield, FCCLA

The generally accepted term 'Sustainable Development' means different things to individuals, societies and nations. My endeavor to grasp the meaning of the term

led me to extensive research into current literature and this publication in the New Catalyst Bioregional Series. I am impressed with this 'down to earth' approach to understanding the basics of resource consumption. I now suggest that 'Development of Sustainability' is a preferable term. The difference between the growth and development of our resource consumption, which is the traditional model of expansion adopted by most nations, and the requirement that human enterprises remain within global carrying capacity, are generally subject to superficial policy responses. These policies,

the authors suggest, only reinforce denial of 'overshoot' or growth beyond an area's carrying capacity, which leads to a 'crash'. We have examples in the depletion of fish stocks, desertification and in the loss of forestry and water resources. *Professor William Rees was a member of the Committee set up by the President of UBC in 1976 to advise on the establishment of a Faculty of Landscape Architecture.* ☒

Review



Congratulations to the 2003 BCSLA Community Service Award Winners

In the **Individual category**, winners were **Deborah Jones and Ib Nielsen** of Delta, **Ray Visser**, Kamloops and **Richard Somerset Mackie** from Cowichan Bay. **Susan Crawford** from RecTec Industries Inc. was the winner in the **Corporate category**. **Richard Hankin**, GVRD, garnered the **Public Servant Award**. Thanks to all the nominators for participating in this program.

13 Acres

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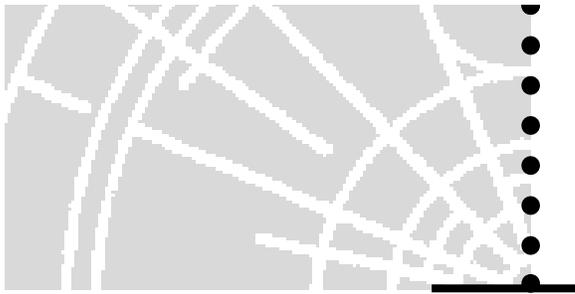
Schoolyard Park concludes with "Questions for the Future Schoolyard", such as: "What if Designing the Schoolyard were a Game" and "What if the Filtration of Rainwater became a Learning Event throughout the Site". These provocative questions consider the future potentialities of both Schoolyards and Parks in a holistic relationship between landscape and architecture; while being responsive

to the cognitive, physical and emotional development of children. There are no play apparatus structures in the program outline. Play elements such as ladders can be found within a stimulating environment without being formally staged.

While the book answers questions about how a conceptual design, with complex and esoteric parameters can be realized; it does not go beyond the conceptual

design stage and does not provide a methodology. Schoolyard Park stimulates a new way of thinking about landscapes and their relationships to education. It provides the imagery to inspire diverse, interactive and highly perceptive design interpretations. It reminds one of when childhood was discovery and learning through the simple exploration of the natural elements surrounding us. ☒

REVIEW



The Ages of Gaia, A Biography of our Living Earth

By James Lovelock
W.W. Norton & Company, London.

Review by Philip Tattersfield, FCSLA

Gaia, wife of Zeus, is the goddess of our planet. Dr. Lovelock presents a theory that over countless millenia our planet has experienced major changes and catastrophes and the whole planet can be regarded as a self regulating ecological entity or 'super organism' made up of all living things and their material environment. I find this book vastly stimulating in its breadth of vision; but also producing a deep humility.

Our present civilization represents only a momentary flash in the

flow of geological time. Our present efforts in ensuring human survival will have little effect on the subsequent Ages of Gaia and their self-regulating capacity. When applying Lovelock's approach to growth and development, with all its political social and financial limitations, I found the book altered my assumptions and understanding of ecology both in the limited professional terms and in future efforts to mitigate the 'Ecological Footprint'. ☒



n o t i c e b o a r d

Provincial Grand Display Garden Competition

The **Victoria Flower and Garden Show** is calling all landscape architects to create a garden showpiece to enter in this competition being held from **July 11 - 13** at Royal Roads University.

For details visit www.flowerandgarden.net, email vfgs@shaw.ca or call Mr. Lea Snyder, Show Coordinator at (250) 381-1195.

Letter to the Editor

In the February 2003 Sitelines article 'Scots Botanical and Horticultural Legacy in New Caledonia and British Columbia', reference is made to the magnificent median trees planted by Bill Livingstone. However, the 'Golden Limes' between the Bigtrees, *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, are

not Limes, *Tilia* sp., but are the golden leaved form of the English or Scotch Elm, *Ulmus glabra lutescens*. This selection was made by the van Houte nursery in Belgium over 100 years ago. The nursery's more famous plant introduction is *Spirea vanhoutei*, the Bridal wreath Spirea. If memory serves me right there is also a Golden Scotch Elm

in the Riverview arboretum. The writer and the Cambie Boulevard Heritage Society have proposed that Cambie Street combined with the arboretum at Queen Elizabeth Park become a National Historic Urban Landscape and are currently working toward this end.

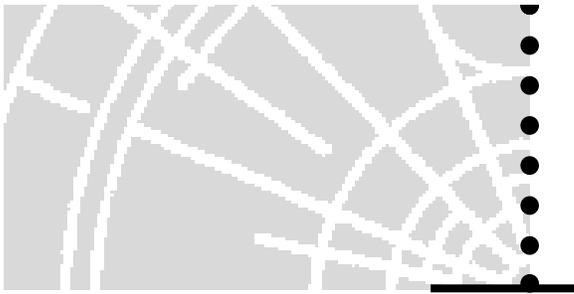
Clive L. Justice, FCSLA,
LMBCSLA LMIDS. ☒



BCSLA 2003 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 20 – 28	Landscape Architecture Week (Canada and USA)
April 22	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting with the CSLA Fellows (BC) Vancouver, BC
May 2	BCSLA Board of Examiners Sitting UBC MacMillan Building — Vancouver, BC
May 5 – 8	Planning Institute of BC Annual General Meeting Nelson, BC
May 14	BCSLA Public Sector Sub-Committee Meeting Vancouver City Hall — Vancouver, BC
May 20	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
May 23 – 24	CSLA Annual General Meeting Banff, AB
May 25 – 29	IFLA 40th World Congress: Landscapes On The Edge Calgary, AB
June 9 – 11	LARE Candidate Sitting UBC — Vancouver, BC
June 12 – 15	VanDusen Flower & Garden Show, Vancouver, BC
June 24	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
July 22	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
July 31	BCSLA Membership Application Deadline
August	June 2003 LARE Results
September	BCSLA Credentials Committee Meeting Vancouver, BC
September	Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards Annual General Meeting
September 17 – 18	CanWest Hort Show Vancouver, BC
September 22 – 26	Union of BC Municipalities Annual General Meeting Whistler, BC
October	American Society of Landscape Architects Annual General Meeting





noticeboard

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Board of Examiners

The Spring 2003 Sitting
of the
BCSLA Board of Examiners
will be on
Friday, May 2, 2003
at UBC.

Downtown Waterfront Design Competition

The **City of Kelowna** is seeking consultant teams with a commitment to design excellence and a proven ability to design and construct urban waterfronts and civic spaces, to submit **Expressions of Interest** to participate in a design competition for Kelowna's downtown waterfront. From the EOI's three competitors will be selected to participate in the design competition. The competition has a total award value of \$60,000, and the possibility of providing the design and construction services for a \$4 million park development.

For more information contact Andrew Gibbs, BCSLA, Park Design & Construction Supervisor via email at agibbs@city.kelowna.bc.ca or telephone (250) 862-5580. Additional details are also available at www.city.kelowna.bc.ca.



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