

A Message from Pawel Gradowski, BCSLA President

It's been a very busy and exciting year at the BCSLA. We hosted the CSLA/CELA Shifting Ground Conference, partnered with allied organizations on a unique day of multi-disciplinary events called Super Saturday, organized continuing education programs and tours, coordinated LARE workshops, developed a communications strategy, hosted a CLARB meeting and many more events. We welcomed seven new Registered Landscape Architects and one Landscape Architect.

Included with this edition of *Sitelines* you will find your invoice for the 2007 BCSLA Membership dues. At the 2006 Annual General Meeting the Membership approved an annual dues increase of 5% (before taxes) across all categories every year rounding up to the nearest dollar. The Membership wholeheartedly supported the increase to allow funding for part-time clerical support, communications/outreach and to allocate additional funding to the Emergency Fund. The invoice also reflects a \$25 increase in CSLA Membership dues for Registered Landscape Architect and Landscape Architect Members. This is the first increase in several years.

Tom Barratt and Dave Hutch are working with public relations consultant Sonya Hwang, Ki Communications, on a communications Strategy. The strategy is meant to raise the profile of the profession, build BCSLA's reputation and attract media attention. I am working with the webmaster to develop the sitelines.org website that will be the commercial sister to the BCSLA website. It is hoped that this site will generate revenue in the future. We are also hoping to update the BCSLA website.

Pat Harrison and Tara Culham have developed a job description for a part-time clerical support person. This person would share in the day to day operation of the

Society and allow Board to work on issues while delegating some responsibility to Tara. We recently updated the office computer and refined the accounting system. A candidate will be hired once the 2006 CSLA/CELA Conference financials are finalized.

A previous Board of Directors established an emergency fund in 2003. Currently the Emergency Fund is in a cashable Term Deposit at VanCity Credit Union in the amount of \$10,506.13. We will be adding to the fund over time.

There is still some interest in purchasing strata titled office but the market has prevented us from proceeding. We have received advice from experts to defer the purchase. There is currently \$12,050.66 in cashable term deposits and we will be adding \$3,000 for 2006 before the end of the year.

We are working with the BC Landscape and Nursery Association on revisions to the BC Landscape Standard. The new and significantly improved publication will include additional sections such as green roofs, invasive plants, integrated pest management and much more. If you would like to volunteer on this group call the BCSLA office today.

BCSLA is in preliminary discussions to hold a BC Land Summit 2009 with the partners from the 2004 event. Other allied organizations have expressed interest in participating. Contact Tara at the BCSLA office to help develop the program and other exciting activities.



Illustration: Cameron Murray

A reminder that the final day of the three year period of the mandatory CE is December 31, 2006.

According to the BCSLA CE Policy Registered Landscape Architects, Landscape Architects and Intern Landscape Architects are required to meet the minimum standard of thirty (30) from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2006. Inactive Members must meet the minimum standard of fifteen (15) credits.

I encourage all BCSLA Members to volunteer a little (or a lot) of your time on the Board of Directors or a Committee or on a task such as contributing your thoughts and boast a little about your project work to *Sitelines* newsletter. This is your chance to have a say on how your Society represents you and your profession.

On behalf of the BCSLA Board of Directors we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Best wishes in 2007.