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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 BCSLA.

President Promotes Professionalism

BY PAWEŁ GRADOWSKI MBCSLA



President Pawel.

Drawing by Cameron Murray

The year 2005 was an exceptional year for Landscape Architects across British Columbia. This year appears to be even more promising with a number of interesting projects on the horizon. There are four years to go until the Winter Olympics, housing development in the Lower Mainland is booming and almost every office is working at full capacity. It is hard to find a moment to relax or to contemplate the distant future; while every business owner knows that when it is busy one has to work harder to plan for the future. The same idea holds true in planning for the future of the profession of Landscape Architecture.

While planning for the future, one has to consider that our environment is going through some significant transformations, which will eventually change our perception of landscape. Environments we take for granted today, will not be the same tomorrow. I am optimistic about the future and sense that where there is a problem, there is also a solution. I believe that we, as Landscape Architects, must look for opportunities to present the world with smart solutions to the environmental challenges that are currently appearing in the daily news.

It is a necessity for our profession to intimately understand the construction process and its economy, to understand and meet the needs of various engineers, work together with architects and planners, to satisfy various requirements of the law, understand and work with Nature and meet the needs of people. Through this experience, we are uniquely qualified to become the best leaders of positive change in urban development; as it is the landscape architectural treatment, or lack of it, that has possibly the most influential role in new, sustainable, urban development.

Today, the rising price of gas may deter us from taking a trip to a remote place. Tomorrow, the energy crisis may entirely change the way we commute

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The Gateway Arch in St Louis was designed in 1947 by Eero Saarinen and built from 1961 to 1965. It still feels contemporary today. The mathematical precision of its design and construction is inspiring, given that : a) no computers were used, b) it is a catenary curve, c) it had to be built from two points and meet precisely at its apex, by old school survey, without lasers, d) it has a tapering cross section from a fifty-four foot equilateral triangle at base, rising to seventeen feet at apex and e) it was not self supporting until the two sides of the arch were connected with keystone pieces and during construction each leg had a large creeper crane, adding 100 tons to the load. Slide-rules-a-go-go.

Caption & Photograph by Pat Harrison

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President Promotes Professionalism

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to work or think about vacations. Potable water is already a precious commodity in many parts of the world. We have changed our perception of the Sun and the effects of solar radiation. Organizations and individuals including some landscape architects are working hard to find solutions to these and other issues that will have a significant effect on our lifestyle. We all shall join this group and bring our expertise to the Integrated Design process that promotes sustainable development. Our broadly applied professional leadership will provide us with more opportunities for influencing the way people think and through this process help stimulating more positive growth.

Once I heard Cornelia Oberlander say that to be able to make a positive change in the world, one has to have five traits that all start with the letter P. These are Professionalism, Passion, Persistence,

Patience and Politeness. We can take this wisdom into our hearts, whether we work for a municipality, in the private sector, or in educating future Landscape Architects. I also believe that we should add one more P word to this list. Promotion can be the key element that may not only raise the profile of our profession; but also will allow us to be better understood and supported in our initiatives by the society in which we live and work.

Every one of us, regardless of the particular aspect of Landscape Architecture that we

perform, can look for opportunities to promote our profession.

We may get involved in neighbourhood projects, school programmes, various organizations related to development, and participate in Advisory Design Panels. We can promote our profession at all levels of government and demand participation in all projects where environmental issues are involved. I strongly believe that Landscape Architecture is uniquely positioned to make changes today that will positively influence the way our great grandchildren will play.



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