

GTA CHAPTER NEWS

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February 2010 Issue

edited by Angela Ho, M.A., GSC, PQS LEED AP



Ontario Institute of Quantity Surveyors

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

It's another year. Hope everyone has had a great start for another year of challenges.

Last year, most industries faced lay-offs, cost cutting and implementation of drastic measures to stay competitive and afloat. The construction industry was fortunate with the government's stimulus funds that fuelled the industry and remained robust throughout the year. Nonetheless, with the credit crisis, private construction projects were largely affected.

The end of 2009 and the beginning of 2010 had seen an upward turn for most industries. More activities are expected in construction. More private owners are in a better position to go forward with projects they have put on hold. This is a welcoming sign for all of us.

To prepare ourselves for the new year, we have to be aware of the changes in the industries and the

tools available to make us more competitive and efficient. The GTA Chapter hosts industry related seminars each year for our members to help them stay ahead of the game. They can earn also CPD points by attending these seminars.

RICS

One piece of exciting news in January is the recognition of the RICS of the CEC and PQS status. RICS stands for the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. The RICS is an internationally recognized institute of quantity surveyors, land surveyors and professional engineers. The recognition of the CEC and PQS designations is a great step forward for the CIQS and a testimony of the value of being a member of the CIQS.

I would like to offer my applause to those who have worked so hard over the years and put the Institute on the international map.

Executive Council:

- Chairman: Chris Court
- Vice-Chair: Bruno Pilioci
- Secretary: Angela Ho
- Treasurer: Marco Alescio
- Registrar: Evelyn Lord

Committee Members:

- Newsletter Committee: Angela Ho
- Industry Liaison Committee: Ian Duncan, Lenny Simonelli, Bruno Pilioci, Chris Court, Arulvathany Sivaskandarajan
- Seminars, Site Tours Committee: Evelyn Lord, Bruno Pilioci, Sam Sabat
- New Canadians Committee: Sam Sabat, Kemlesh Gandhi,
- Student Chapter Committee: Chris Court, Lenny Simonelli

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RICS ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL DIRECT ENTRY PATHWAYS FOR QUALIFYING CIQS MEMBERS

Members Have Access to AssocRICS and MRICS Designations

NEW YORK - January 14, 2010 - RICS Americas announced today that qualifying members of the Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (CIQS) are eligible for a streamlined qualification process for RICS's AssocRICS and MRICS designations.

RICS is the world's leading membership organization for professionals in property, land, construction and related environmental issues, with 3,000 members in the Americas and 100,000 worldwide. CIQS is the Canadian national professional body representing quantity surveying and construction estimating professionals and has more than 2,300 members throughout Canada as well as overseas.

"We are extremely pleased to receive this recognition and especially pleased to receive it in the year when we are celebrating our fiftieth year of quantity surveying and construction cost estimating leadership in Canada," said Ian Duncan PQS, President of CIQS. "This is a landmark in Quantity Surveying in North America and we look forward to strengthening our relationship with RICS here in the region and worldwide."


"This is an important milestone for both organizations which undoubtedly would please those RICS members who were instrumental in founding CIQS in 1959," said RICS Canada Chairman John Hughes FRICS. "This development will further strengthen the quantity surveying profession in Canada. I believe it will also help our QS firms to compete domestically and in the global market."

"RICS and CIQS members have been working together for many years. In fact, many quantity surveyors and cost

estimating professionals in Canada already hold dual membership," said Tom Justin FRICS, Chairman of RICS Americas. "We are very pleased to continue formalizing the relationship between our two organizations and look forward to maintaining and strengthening the standards of our profession."

"This new arrangement makes it easier for CIQS credential holders to apply for RICS designations," said Matt Bruck, Managing Director, RICS Americas. "The respective organizations are similar in many ways, reflecting the active role RICS members took in establishing CIQS 50 years ago. This step codifies what we have known for quite some time: that CIQS credential requirements are rigorous and CIQS members are a good fit with the RICS."

Members of CIQS at the grade CEC/ECC are eligible for Direct Entry to the newly created Associates Membership qualification, or AssocRICS, Quantity Surveying and Construction pathway. Members with ten years professional membership of CIQS (at any grade), of which at least five years have been as PQS/ECA, are eligible for Direct Entry to the Membership qualification, or MRICS. Any PQS/ECA with less than ten years' professional membership of CIQS (of which at least five are at PQS/ECA) is eligible for Direct Entry to AssocRICS. More details are available online at www.ricsamericas.org/ciqs.



RICS' Associate qualification, or AssocRICS, is a new grade of membership. It provides an opportunity for those with relevant work experience and vocational qualifications to enhance their professional status and gain recognition. AssocRICS also provides a stepping stone to advance to the MRICS designation.

In addition, RICS membership provides access to valuable professional knowledge and information and the opportunity to network with property professionals around the world.

About CIQS

The Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. CIQS is the national association of quantity surveyors in Canada with affiliated associations in Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec. Members of the CIQS can be identified by the designatory letters PQS (Professional Quantity Surveyor) and the French equivalent of Économiste en Construction Agréé with the initials ECA. In addition, the Institute provides designations to its members in the construction industry as Construction Estimator Certified (CEC), and French equivalent Estimateur en Construction Certifié (ECC).

For more information on CIQS, contact Lois Metcalfe, Executive Director, at execdir@ciqs.org or go to www.ciqs.org.

About RICS & RICS Americas

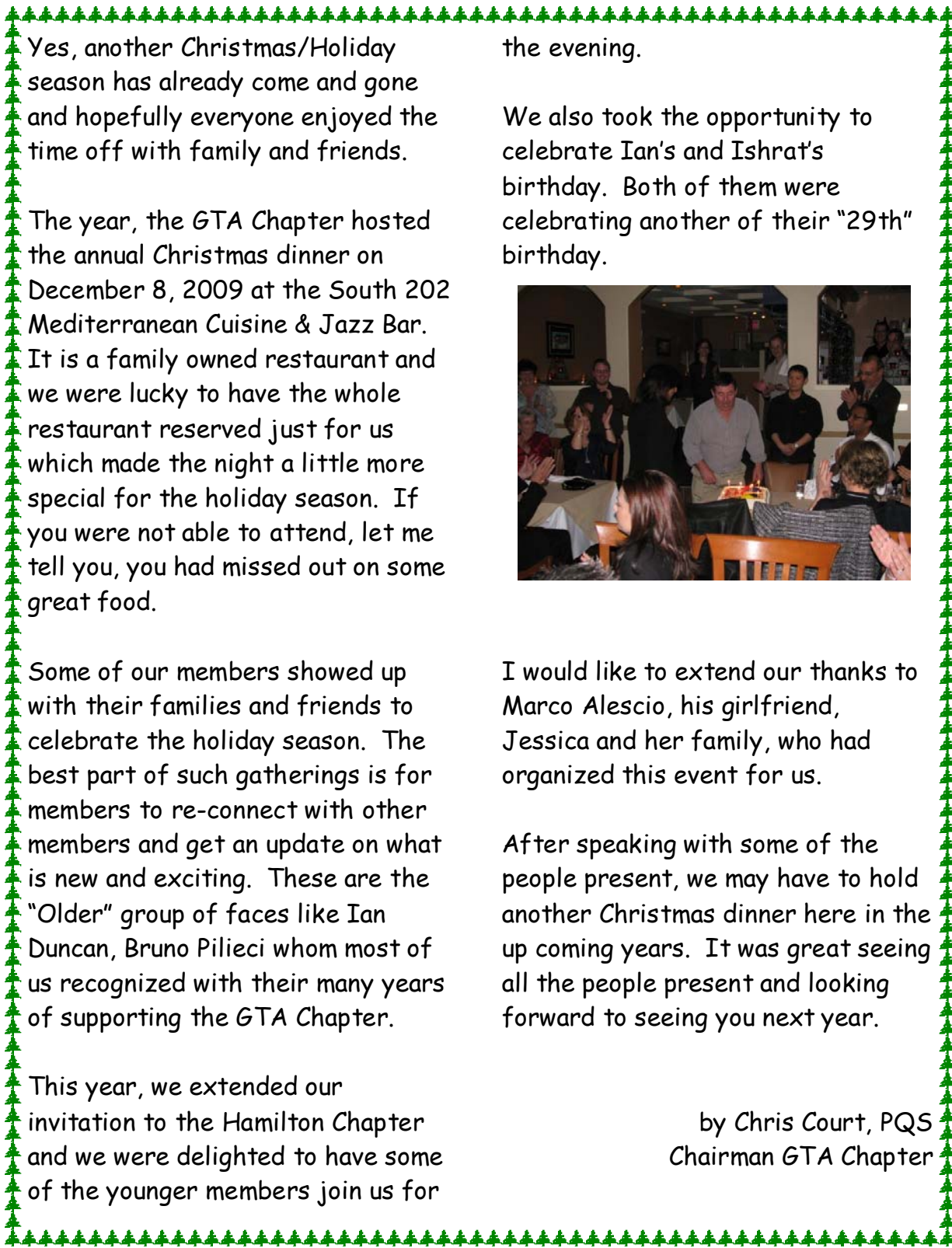
RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors), with headquarters in London, is the leading organization of its kind in the world for more than 100,000 professionals in property, land, construction and related environmental issues.

RICS Americas, based in New York and covering North, Central and South America and the Caribbean, has more than 3,000 members in commercial and residential development, construction and project management, brokerage, planning and finance, valuation and fine arts appraisal. For further information visit www.ricsamericas.org or e-mail ricsamericas@rics.org.

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2009 CHRISTMAS DINNER



Yes, another Christmas/Holiday season has already come and gone and hopefully everyone enjoyed the time off with family and friends.

The year, the GTA Chapter hosted the annual Christmas dinner on December 8, 2009 at the South 202 Mediterranean Cuisine & Jazz Bar. It is a family owned restaurant and we were lucky to have the whole restaurant reserved just for us which made the night a little more special for the holiday season. If you were not able to attend, let me tell you, you had missed out on some great food.

Some of our members showed up with their families and friends to celebrate the holiday season. The best part of such gatherings is for members to re-connect with other members and get an update on what is new and exciting. These are the "Older" group of faces like Ian Duncan, Bruno Pilienci whom most of us recognized with their many years of supporting the GTA Chapter.

This year, we extended our invitation to the Hamilton Chapter and we were delighted to have some of the younger members join us for

the evening.

We also took the opportunity to celebrate Ian's and Ishrat's birthday. Both of them were celebrating another of their "29th" birthday.



I would like to extend our thanks to Marco Alescio, his girlfriend, Jessica and her family, who had organized this event for us.

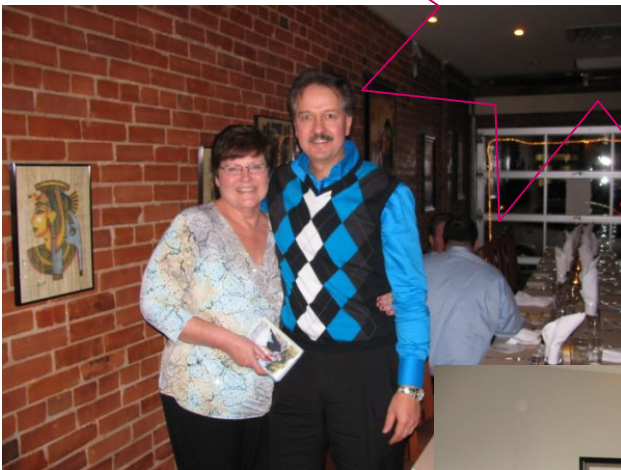
After speaking with some of the people present, we may have to hold another Christmas dinner here in the up coming years. It was great seeing all the people present and looking forward to seeing you next year.

by Chris Court, PQS
Chairman GTA Chapter

2009 CHRISTMAS DINNER



Old faces. New faces. All came out to celebrate the occasion and had a few hours of fun and food.



New Canadian Seminar

by Angela Ho, M.A., GSC, PQS, LEED AP

In the last couple of months, the GTA Chapter held a few seminars for our members. One of them was part 1 of the "New Canadian Initiative" on resumes and interview skills.

The seminar was held at Ryerson University. Sam Sabat and Kamlesh Gandhi organized the event and our Ryerson student reps helped us coordinate the venue. We had a modest turn out. Most of the attendees were new comers to Canada, some students and a couple of "old" Canadians. Sam Sabat presented the key points of resume writing and gave attendees great pointers in job hunting and understanding of the job market. Ian Duncun, David Lai, Kamlesh Gandhi and I were there to answer questions from the attendees.



Get a headstart!
Learn the skill!
Get connected!

The GTA Chapter holds the "New Canadian" seminar every year. Although the name is "New Canadian", the intent of this seminar is to help anyone who is job hunting to brush up their techniques in both resume writing and interview skills and have a better understanding of the job market. It is also a good opportunity to learn to network which is the best route to getting a job.

Part 2 of the "New Canadian" is scheduled to take place this month. Watch out for the e-mail flyer sent by Lois Metcalfe for the date, time and venue. A little effort on your part to attend may help you a long way in your career.



Should I dress up
for an interview?



BIM

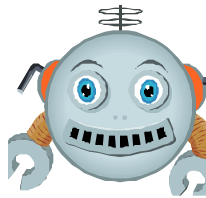
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?

On November 20, 2009, the GTA Chapter organized a BIM seminar at Ryerson University. Although it was a Friday night, we had a good number of enthusiasts attending the seminar. The seminar was presented by Luis Navarrete and David Leest of SolidCad.

What does BIM stand for? BIM is an acronym for Building Information Modelling. For years, we have been dealing with one dimensional or two dimensional drawings. Each discipline, architectural, structural, mechanical and electrical, has its set of drawings. To get a complete picture of the project, we have to navigate all the drawings, which often translates into hundreds of them. For the consultants, even a minor change will affect many drawings in the same discipline and a lot of effort and resources have to be devoted to making sure that the change is implemented by other disciplines.

BIM is considered a dynamic tool, not only to the consultants for design purposes, but also for quantity surveyors and contractors. Using the

technology, the quantity surveyor can calculate materials and costing down to the most detailed components. The contractor can construct the project virtually to develop logistic sequencing of the job, coordinate disciplines and avoid interferences.



New technology is often intimidating and the implementation of which is more often than not costly. The users have to go through a learning curve which sometimes can be very frustrating. Nonetheless, we have to keep ourselves abreast of new technology, not only in construction methodology or materials but also in other associated areas to remain a top-notch quantity surveyor.

Watch out for other future BIM and seminars on new technology offered by the Institute. Attending the seminars also give you CPD points.

by Angela Ho, M.A., GSC, PQS, LEED AP

CONGRATULATIONS TO LENNY & SABRINA SIMONELLI

PROUD PARENTS TO SAMUEL

