

# *President's message*

The Annual General Meeting is a great opportunity to reflect upon where we've been as a 44 year old organization, and electing a new Council is an excellent occasion to create a vision for the future.

Looking back, I realize I have some big shoes to fill: we've had great Presidents and Councils over the years. Thank-you Bonnie and thank-you Council members for all your efforts, vision and leadership! We all owe you tremendous gratitude for your outstanding contribution to the Association.

Welcome, Naomi Irizawa, who joins John Morrison, Bonnie Bowerman, Dave Sanna, Elgin Douglas, Keith Hobcraft, Andy Manahan and Konrad Koenig as the 2007 Council. I look forward to continuing to work with all of them in the upcoming year and I'm excited about the position.

Unlike other organizations, Ontario's Professional Land Economists are a fairly diverse group of real estate professionals, planners, appraisers, brokers, economists, and a myriad of both private and public sector thinkers, movers and shakers. It's great that we can come together and chat about our common ground from similar, yet different perspectives.

With that in mind, I'm committed to continuing to host diverse world class speakers in intimate venues throughout the city, and expanding our non-dinner events. Over the past year, this Association offered all of us some fantastic events, including opportunities to meet with the iconic political pillar of Mississauga, Her Worship Hazel McCallion, Giffels' Michael LeGresley, and Ian Dobson.

These are always such enjoyable, well-organized events – and superb opportunities to learn, socialize and casually network. They are also a fantastic way to celebrate the excellence of our members. Lets all make sure we find time in our schedules to say hello to each other at these wonderful functions.

The web site and journal are great resources which enrich us all with articles on up-to-date trends, occurrences and information. I hope we can expand these excellent pieces of communications infrastructure that keep us all connected. Thank you all for your ongoing efforts.

Given the breadth of our members, broadening our membership base and building our organization's reputation and profile



is likewise key for the AOLE in 2007. Continuing and enhancing the dialogue and interaction with other professional organizations will be critical as we reach out across the multi-disciplinary real estate field, and spread the word of this unique and grass roots group.

I look forward to the year ahead of us and chatting with you at our next event.

I encourage all to become involved and participate in this excellent group. Should you wish to contact me anytime, please do not hesitate do so via: [valdemar.nickel@giffels.com](mailto:valdemar.nickel@giffels.com).

Warm regards,

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