

**Mike Murray**

**From:** "Martha George, President of GVCA" <mgeorge@gvca.org>  
**To:** <epr@gvca.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 02, 2009 6:35 AM  
**Subject:** GVCA December Industry News

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## December 2009 GVCA NEWS

### Strengthen & Protect our Industry Jobs by Educating Ourselves



Yes, it was a heck of a year. For many of us it was the hardest of times. For others, it was the acknowledgment that the economy is cyclical and bad times always follow good times. The rainy day we were all warned about became a flood. And while most of us survived the Great Recession, all of us experienced someone close to us -

friends or family - losing a job and sometimes even more. Without a doubt times are still hard. But we are a generous community and we are known for our helping hands. What is as important as generosity is **creating sustainable businesses that bring jobs to our community**. There is no better way to create a strong and healthy construction industry than to encourage our employees (and management) to "continually educate." By creating a more knowledgeable workforce, we can strengthen our businesses from top to bottom. Healthy businesses create employment at all levels.

#### **Red Seal: Is Money in the Bank!**

To encourage a more educated workforce (which increases productivity) is the Red Seal program. For all those employees who write their Red Seal exams they receive a cash payment of \$2,000. This is cash in the pocket to your employees. Trades people working in the construction industry who have completed their school and apprentice hours and should be encouraged to take the next step and write the Red Seal Exam. **This gives them journeyman status to work in all provinces across Canada.** As an employer, encourage them to write it; it builds a better construction community. Employees can contact the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities to set up the exam date.

#### **Go for the Gold (Seal Certification)**

Remember that promise you made to yourself? That you would apply for Gold Seal Certification based on your long years of experience and expertise.

Your chance to do this is just about gone. Before you know it, the option for **Sr. Practitioner** will no longer be available, and certification will be by examination only. If you have a demonstrated 15 years in the industry, along with education credits, or if you have 20 years experience in the discipline of estimator, project manager, site superintendent, you may qualify

**Quick Links**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**DECEMBER**

**December 10** - Annual  
GVCA Christmas Lunch  
**Sold out**

**JANUARY**

**January 20**, Detroit Car Show, Cobo Center, Detroit Michigan

**FEBRUARY**

**February 16** GVCA AGM, Hall of Fame and Heritage Recognitions.

[Download Registration PDF Here.](#)

without the examination.

We have more information on the Gold Seal program on our GVCA website. Or you can download the Senior Practitioner application [form here.](#)

Sincerely,



Martha George, P.GSC  
President, GVCA  
Email: [mgeorge@gvca.org](mailto:mgeorge@gvca.org)

**It's here.  
H1N1  
Have a Plan.**

By now, everyone knows people who have been off work because of the flu. Whether it's H1N1 or seasonal flu, it has a very real effect on business productivity.

If even 25% of your staff or crew is affected with flu (or have to take vacation days/personal time because their children have it) your business will be hurt.

The best way to counterattack the flu is to have a plan that assigns roles and responsibilities to non-sick employees.

Imagine if "Alice" who is in charge of payroll is sick for 5 days - who is covering for her payroll responsibilities?

Or what if Frank, the site super is off for three days with the flu and so is the project manager...and the lead carpenter? What's your plan?

This is happening - without a plan in place, you are putting your business at risk.

Here is a handy checklist for you to use: [Pandemic Checklist](#)

## Three Events: One Night Tuesday, February 16, 2010

1. Hall of Fame
2. Aon Business Heritage Tributes
3. Annual General Meeting

**We are gathering nominations for the GVCA Hall of Fame.** Think of someone in the construction industry that has helped us all through their innovation, commitment and passion not only to the industry that we all love, but to the community as well.



Great individuals can affect change and through their leadership have influence to look out for our interests. Its time to honor them for all they have done. If you know of someone whose contributions to the construction industry should be recognized, please download the nomination form. This Hall of Fame recognizes the best of the best.

### Was your business founded prior to 1985?

The GVCA is honouring companies who have been in business for 25 years or more (and have not been previously recognized) please contact GVCA staff at 519-622-4822 ext 27 prior to January 15 for inclusion in this tribute. It's an



honour to be included!

[Download Registration for both events here.](#)

## Bright Spots

One of our "shining stars" that brightens our industry and our community is Conestoga College.

Conestoga College President Dr. John Tibbits has done a remarkable job in bringing our local college to the forefront of educational excellence.

Dr. Tibbits has also lobbied all levels of government successfully and consistently for the last 10 years, which has resulted in \$96.9 million

## Annual General Meeting

Find out how your GVCA performed in 2009 as well as to approve and vote on proposed bylaw changes.

Open to all members. [Download Proxy Form here.](#)

**(Hint: We rocked! Including being named the Construction Association of the Year!)**

**When:** February 16, 2010

**Time:** AGM 5:30 pm followed by dinner. [Download registration form here.](#)

**Where:** Holiday Inn, Kitchener (Fairway Road)

**Christmas Comes Earl:  
GVCA Safety Group  
Receives \$300,000**

of financial commitments; with millions of dollars directly connected with the construction of world class facilities.

"Conestoga is unwavering in our commitment to prosperity," says Tibbits. "The growth we have achieved and our vision for the future will lead to more and better employment, and contribute to economic innovation and progress. As always, skills education is the key. Partnerships involving education, business, industry and government expand educational opportunity and open pathways to community prosperity."

Conestoga Colleges's commitment to the skilled trades training has been a vital link to our industry. Along with its degree granting status in facilities management and the architectural technologist program, Conestoga is a community treasure.

Thank you Dr. John Tibbits for all your hard work on ensuring Conestoga College is the ideal source for education.

**Detroit Car Show**  
**"We're on the Road Again"**  
**(It's a trip to the Cobra Center in Detroit!)**

Due to popular demand, the Detroit Car Show "road trip" is back.

Remember last year when everyone was in a bad mood about the auto industry (many of us were upset about bailing out GM with taxpayer dollars) and we weren't sure if there would be cars and trucks? Well, things are different now...

**Hybrids for work?**

The shift to hybrids for fuel efficiency can save your firm a lot of money, and is

This year at our Christmas Party (another sold out event) we will be handing out giant cheques - 33 GVCA Safety Group members will share in a **\$300,000 WSIB rebate.**

This rebate was earned in 2008 by the GVCA members who participated in our first GVCA sponsored Safety Group.

**Rebate Cheques** will be presented to the firms in attendance prior to the Christmas Party at the Kitchener Holiday Inn.

**If you would like to join the 2010 GVCA Safety Group and receive your own rebate next Christmas, fill out the [application form here](#).**

**Sold Out: INFO SESSION: DECEMBER 15**  
**Harmonized Sales Tax & Fixed Price Contracts Info Session**

The Ontario Government announced its intention to harmonize the existing Provincial Sales Tax (PST) with the 5% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) to create a single, value-added Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) effective July 1, 2010. That means that the current 8% PST will be replaced with a 13% HST.

This will create confusion in our industry especially on projects that stretch over the July 1 HST launch date. CCA has prepared a paper that will help you through the transitional stage, and has a recommended approach for tenders.

**Due to overwhelming demand, we will be offering another HST seminar soon. We will email you with the new date and time.**

**SOLD OUT Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Party**

GVCA Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday December 10, 2009 at the Holiday Inn, Fairview Road, Kitchener.

**When:** Thursday December 10

**Where:** Kitchener Holiday Inn, 30 Fairview Road

**Time:** 11:30 am, Bar opens 11:45 am, Lunch 12:30 pm

Our comedic entertainment is sponsored by our friends at [Boehmers o/u Hargest Block](#)

**BOEHMERS**

Paul Sapounzi and the Water Street Blues Band will entertain us during the reception, following a delicious buffet lunch and then our comedian sponsored by Bohmer Block will have you rolling off your seat.

friendly to the environment. Find out the latest by getting right under the hood by experiencing the next generation of transportation. More than 700 vehicles will be on display representing the most innovative designs in the world.

**When:** January 20, 2010  
**Where:** Cobra Conference Center, Detroit, Michigan  
**Bus Leaves:** 7 am at Carpool Lot at Homer Watson & 401. For more information: Phone: 519-622-4822 ext 27 Email:

[staff@gvca.org](mailto:staff@gvca.org)

Cost: \$60 plus GST

Registration: [Download](#)

[Registration PDF here](#)

Limited seating. Register today!

### CAA Bulletin

Find out what the **Canadian Construction Association** has to say this week.

[Week of November 24](#)

### Industry Links

[Daily Commercial News](#)

[Canadian Construction Association](#)

[COCA](#)

**Become  
a GVCA  
Member**

Join now  
and save!



## 2010 Building Excellence Awards

Save the date:  
**Friday April 23, 2010**

Read all about it [here](#).

This is a celebration of excellence by our members for projects that have been substantially completed between January 1, 2008 and Dec 31, 2009.

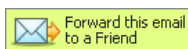
**You've built something excellent. Let your team share in the recognition.**

[Download the PDF Nomination Forms](#)

[Download the PDF Sponsorship Form here.](#)

## Member News

**Bulldog Fire and Security** was named the **2009 Security Systems Integrator of the Year** by the Security Product and Technology association. Bulldog received the award for its work with Sleeman Brewery on upgrading the brewery's security measures to make it compliant with the customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT), which addresses issues pertaining to the supply chain and U.S. border security.



**Grand Valley Construction Association**  
**25 Sheldon Drive, Cambridge, Ontario**  
**N1R 6R8**

[website: gvca.org](http://www.gvca.org)

Phone: **519-622-4822**

Fax: **519-621-3289**

### GVCA Contacts

- [Martha George](#), P GSC -President (ext. 23)
- [Barb Flagel](#), Administration and Membership Services(ext. 24)
- [Michael Murray](#), Plansroom Manager (ext. 22)
- [Rob Agley](#), Plansroom Coordinator (ext. 21)

## EXTRA GVCA MEMBER DIRECTORY

your GVCA Members Directory should have arrived in the mail. **Pick up a copy for each of your vehicles and departments. Additional copies are available for purchase: Member price \$10 per directory; non-member \$50 per directory.**

This directory was carefully designed with a pocket in the back to hold updated information. GVCA will issue a list of new members and any changes or corrections to your listing on a quarterly basis and

**ONLY \$10**

mail them to you. You can always check out our membership listings via the GVCA website. **We encourage MEMBER TO MEMBER business!**  
**That keeps us all busy!**

**Your directory is another benefit of belonging to the GVCA**



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