

AGM Site Lines

SURVEYING • ENGINEERING

Fall 2007



LHBA Supplier of the Year



Bruce Baker, a partner at AGM Surveying and Engineering proudly displays AGM's five Supplier of the Year awards.

On October 3, over 400 people were in attendance at the London Home Builders' Association's annual Awards for Excellence Gala. AGM Surveying and Engineering was honoured to be selected as the LHBA's "Supplier of the Year" for the fifth time in seven years.

The Supplier of the Year award recognizes excellence in products and services of its members by highlighting the supplier that sets the standard for the rest of the industry. This year, there were five finalists in the Supplier of the Year category. AGM was nominated by one of their customers,

customer service and overall customer recommendations.

Lois Langdon, Executive Officer of the Association, commented on AGM's sterling performance as a supplier member.

"The Awards of Creative Excellence" are the Oscars for the construction industry. They allow the Association to give well deserved recognition for the outstanding talents and achievements of members by showcasing their projects both to the public and to their peers. AGM's award as 2007 Supplier of the Year recognizes the value of their outstanding service to the builder

The LHBA surveys all builder and renovator members of the Association for feedback on the performance of all suppliers who are nominated. Areas of judging include technical competence, new product trends, quality of workmanship, price competitiveness,

and renovator members of the LHBA and as it is their fifth win of this prestigious award it is proof that they are setting the standard for the industry."

AGM thanks the Association and all of the members who completed surveys for their confidence in the work we do. Bruce Baker, a partner at AGM summed this year's honour up. "Every day, our people bring leading edge skills and their attitude of service to meet the needs of our customers. It is gratifying to have their efforts recognized by the members of the LHBA."

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- Hugh Goebelle Joins AGM Surveying Team





Snake Hill Reconstruction



Snake Hill was a difficult and dangerous stretch of Commissioners Road.

The Problem: Snake Hill is a stretch of Commissioners Road between Springbank Drive and Crestwood Drive. Before the reconstruction, it was a difficult and sometimes dangerous, yet very busy, stretch of road with an average traffic volume of 12,000 vehicles per day. Its twisting path quickly rose 35 meters as it headed east from Byron. Its slopes varied from 8% to more than 14% with serious blind spots at some of the corners. Citizens groups lobbied the City for years to make safety improvements.

The Challenge: The City of London Transportation Division asked AGM to come up with 3 alternate design solutions that would improve the geometrics of the road, normalize the slope and improve drivers' sightlines by eliminating blind spots.

The Catch: All of the engineering upgrades to the road had to be done within the existing boundaries of the road allowance and a strictly limited construction and engineering budget.

The Team: The AGM team consisted of Dan Wade, Project Manager, Steve Brown, Project Engineer and Jonathon Ngai, Inspector. During the project they drew on the services of other AGM staff

to assist in the design and construction.

The Suggested Solutions: Based on a topographic survey of the project area, AGM put together three designs that all provided variations on the following improvements:

1. Smooth out the rate of climb to an overall average of 10%. This would require up to 1.5 meters of fill in some sections of the road. All fill could be sourced within the construction area.
2. Re-align the road within the road allowance to improve the driveability of the corners. Add as much super-elevation (banking) as possible to improve driver safety in the corners.
3. Add paved shoulders outside the curb line to provide drivers with a safe place to pull off the road and also to provide snow storage for winter maintenance.
4. Use retaining walls to push the sides of the road cut back as far as possible within the existing road allowance in order to improve driver sight lines.
5. Improve the drainage. All drainage before the project was over the surface of the ground. The proposed solutions included a storm sewer with a catch basin at the top of the hill plus a series of catch basins along the curb line. The entire system would be tied into an existing storm sewer at Springbank drive. In addition, swales along the sides of the road would intercept drainage from outside the road allowance and direct the runoff into the storm drainage system.

The Project: Karl Grabowski and Kyle Chambers from the City of London Transportation Division collaborated with the AGM team to select the preferred features from the three proposed solutions. The AGM team compiled the final design.

Because of the tight work area, the decision was taken to close the road for the duration of the project for the safety of both the contractor's employees and drivers.

The contractor was responsible for site grading and laying out the new road to AGM specifications. The AGM team provided contract administration services including inspection of the work in progress and as completed.

The Result: The Snake Hill reconstruction was completed on time and within budget. All of the engineering restrictions were satisfied. Drainage is significantly improved. Many people have commented on the improved aesthetics.

And, most important of all - the road is significantly safer to use!



After the reconstruction the improvement is noticeable.

ARCHIBALD, GRAY & MCKAY





10th Annual AGM Golf Classic Raises \$1600 for Heart and Stroke

Every year, AGM Surveying and Engineering hosts a golf tournament for friends, customers and staff with the dual goals of having some fun together on the course and raising funds for a charitable donation. Money collected for the challenge events and draws at the tournament is matched by AGM and then donated to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

This year, the Golf Classic took place at the Maple Ridge Golf Club on August 21. Eighty-eight golfers gathered at 11:15 for a pre-game barbecue as the day opened with a drizzle that threatened to turn to rain. Eventually, however, the weather eased to become a great day for golf.

Our winning team of Mike Fayad, Allen Fayad, Jameel Fayad and John MacDonald had a collective score of 11 under par!

Our tournament co-sponsors, Stevenson & Hunt and Huron Motor Products generously provided four hole in one prizes – a 2008 Chevrolet Aveo sedan, a luxury golf vacation at a Fairmont Resort, 36 dozen Nike golf balls and a Nike Sasquatch driver. Unfortunately no-one managed to ace any of the hole-in-one challenge holes and those prizes are safe for another year.

Our winners in the skill challenges were:

Putting contest	Gary VanBoxmeer
Closest to the Pin	Karen Anderson (women) and Jim Guenther (men)
Closest to Mr. Tee	Barry Wade
Longest Drive	Grace Dykstra (women) and Jameel Fayad (men)
Closest to the Rope (straightest drive)	Garrett Graham

There were two draws. On hole number 8 players bet \$2

that they could hit the green. If they did, they won a "Maple Ridge" golf ball and a chance in a draw for a round of golf for four with a cart. The winner was Don Edgar. The second was our tournament raffle for a 12-speed bicycle won by Jeremy Hanford.



Jason Wilband, Drew Annable, Bruce Baker and Rick Dykstra present a cheque to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario

Fun was a big part of the day, but this was more than just a day on the links. One purpose of the tournament has always been to raise a charitable donation. Everyone involved in the tournament contributes to reaching this goal. Our sponsors provide draw prizes as well as gifts for our tournament prize table. Our players raised \$783 through the various draws and competitions. On

behalf of our sponsors, employees and players, AGM matched this amount and rounded up to a total donation of \$1600 to the London, Middlesex and Elgin County branch of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

AGM sends a big thanks to everyone who came out to join us and help out in this project.

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Member

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ARCHIBALD, GRAY & McKAY





Hugh Goebelle Joins AGM Surveying Team



Hugh Goebelle has settled in quickly to his new responsibilities at AGM

AGM Surveying and Engineering is pleased to announce that Hugh Goebelle has joined its surveying team. Hugh will be working closely with Bruce Baker on new developments including condominiums, subdivisions and housing. He also brings the potential to expand AGM's practice into the Canada Lands survey market.

Hugh is a graduate of the University of Toronto BSc Land Surveying program. He also holds an MA in the History of Land Surveying from the University of Waterloo and is licensed both as an Ontario Land Surveyor and as a Canada Lands Surveyor.

Even though his grandfather was a surveyor in Galt, Hugh's interest in surveying was not sparked until later by a chance event. After graduating with his first degree, Hugh had no definite career plans so his father helped him get a summer job in surveying with a good friend. Eventually, Hugh went on to join a different small surveying firm. He liked the work so much that he decided to return to school to study surveying.

Both while attending classes at the University of Toronto, and also after graduation, Hugh worked with Dan Dolliver, Ontario Land Surveyor, in Acton. He articulated with Dolliver Surveying Inc. and earned his OLS and CLS. Hugh describes his work with Mr. Dolliver as a "jack-

of-all-trades". It was a small office and there was variety in the size and extent of work ranging from single corner replacements and fence line markings to full plans of subdivisions with housing developments. Hugh enjoyed the challenges.

According to Hugh, "What I enjoy most of all is solving a puzzle. For a surveyor, this often means finding lost or obscure boundaries. Indeed, I have spent much of my professional time as well as my academic time doing just that. Projects have included: finding the original bed of the Credit River before Hurricane Hazel moved it; determining just what feature surveyors were measuring to in the 1820's with respect to water boundaries; helping to find the lost boundaries of Indian Reserves and examining the federal government's land surveys in the Rainy River District."

In 2005, Hugh's wife, Shawn, had an opportunity to accept a position pursuing her career in midwifery in the London area. After the move, Hugh decided to spend time renovating their new house and being a full-time father to their daughter Grace.

The partners and staff at AGM extend a warm welcome to Hugh.



Once again, this year AGM Surveying and Engineering is proud to make a donation to the Salvation Army in lieu of sending Christmas cards.

The partners and employees of AGM send all of our clients and friends best wishes for a warm and wonderful Holiday Season.

