



NOVA SCOTIA
ROAD BUILDERS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

ROAD NEWS

nsrba.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

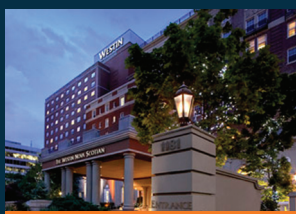
The 66th Nova Scotia Road Builders Association AGM held on January 23-24, 2013 was a great success. The meetings were once again held at the Westin Nova Scotia Hotel.

The joint sessions held on January 23 with NSTIR were informative and interesting. Speakers included Mr. Terry Hughes (NBTIR), Blair Clancy (Northern Construction), Kevin Bezanson (CBCL), Tara Oak (CBCL) and Alexander Wilson (CBCL).

There was a strong attendance for Wednesday's Dinner and Entertainment, as well as the Thursday evening Banquet, which included representatives from local provincial and municipal government.

The silent auction held on Wednesday night raised \$22,000 for the Canadian Association of Community Living. We wish to thank all those in attendance for their generous support and contribution.

The NSRBA Curling Event held at CFB Halifax was once again an enjoyable event. Thanks to those who helped organize the event.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Andrew Lake



The Nova Scotia Road Builders Association is entering its 67th year of service to the road building industry in Nova Scotia. Founded in 1947 by a group of contractors interested in building a close working relationship with the Department of Highways, the association to this day still advocates the raising of industry standards, encourages efficiency, and the exchange of ideas and expertise to keep members current on best practices.

As the association's president for 2013, I'm honored to follow in the footsteps of many storied road builders who have served the association in the past. To guide me through my term as president, Grant Feltmate and I have been meeting with many past presidents and ordinary members to obtain their input on the direction of the association. Feedback from these meetings will help focus the board's efforts, as well as offer insight for an upcoming strategic planning session.

I'd like to recognize the efforts of our immediate past president, Donald Chisholm. Donald entered his term as president when relations with the department were strained due to their purchase and operation of an asphalt plant, paving crew and chip seal operation. Donald maintained the integrity of the association by separating the displeasure of the department's new road building operations from the traditional tendering activity and business relations. While the province remains in the activity of building roads with its own staff, the association has - and plans to continue to - monitor the province's efforts to hold it accountable to the tax paying public.

The province has tabled another strong transportation budget of close to \$246 million for 2013. After dissecting the budget and removing moneys earmarked for equipment, land, design and engineering, and carryover from 2012, approximately \$150 million remains as the true value of new work covered in the budget.

Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal have finally heeded the association's plea for early tendering. Tendering activity in January was reasonably steady, with an anticipation that this level of activity will continue. The early tendering this year will afford road builders the ability to plan their resources better and will provide stability in the event that an election is called which would halt tendering activity for the duration of the election.

The Asphalt Laydown Technician Program was again offered in the spring of 2013 at the NSCSA training facilities, with hands-on equipment training occurring at Atlantic Cat, an associate member of the association. The program was introduced in 2012 to provide individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to become employed as an Asphalt Paving/Laydown Technician.

Participants who are sponsored by NSRBA members gain technical and practical experience in a broad range of asphalt related topics, including:

- Introduction to Asphalt Paving
- Asphalt Production
- Asphalt Placement
- Quality Control and Testing
- Planning for Asphalt Paving
- Safety and Equipment Operation

Space in the class is quickly filling up, but a couple of spaces remain for interested members.

The 66th Nova Scotia Road Builders Association AGM was held at the Westin Nova Scotia in late January to much success. Two distinguished road builders, Mr. John Chisholm and Mr. Allister MacDonald, were recognized as honorary members in the association. As legend has it, Mr. Allister MacDonald has attended each and every NSRBA AGM since the inception of the association in 1947, when he drove his father to the inaugural AGM. Mr. John Chisholm's accomplishments cannot be overshadowed, having a hand in building many of the twinned sections of the Trans Canada Highway through Cumberland, Colchester and Antigonish Counties.



The association to this day still advocates the raising of industry standards, encourages efficiency, and the exchange of ideas and expertise to keep members current on best practices

A standing tradition of the AGM is for the outgoing president to name a charity for which an auction is organized to raise funds for the named charity. Guy Kendziora and BJ Harvey were joined by Rylan MacDow and Yuri Power to organize the auction which raised \$22,000 for the Canadian Association for Community Living. The success of these auctions is a tribute to the generosity of the member companies and their employees.

New to the AGM this year was a Lady's Luncheon. Breast Cancer Action Nova Scotia hosted the charitable event, providing a guest speaker and performing a fashion show. In addition, Ron Legere once again organized a sold-out friendly and sometimes competitive curling event at the HMC Halifax Curling Club. And for those eager golfers, Ron has the Truro Golf Club booked for Thursday July 11 for the 11th Annual NSRBA Golf Tournament.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Grant Feltmate



We continue to live through a period dominated by one main issue of concern for the NSRBA - i.e. the attempt at road building activity by the Provincial Government.

In our opinion, this continues to be an exercise that has very negative results for both the taxpayers and road building industry of Nova Scotia. The Government's own report on their efforts for this year again indicates a significant shortfall in what was accomplished versus what they stated they would do in their business plans. We have and will continue to strongly object to this direction until it stops.

Based on their own reporting, which came out slightly higher than our estimates, TIR came up well short on their production vs. their business plan projections. They did about 47% of the projected chip seal work and 61% of asphalt, despite a phenomenal weather year and working an extended season.

→CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The association is blessed with a strong and active board to represent its members' interests. Serving on the board in 2013 include:

- Mark Underhill, Dexter Construction
- Pam Sullivan, Basin Contracting
- Calvin Flight, Industrial Cold Milling
- Brian England, England Paving
- Bob Bernier, Eastern Fence
- Steven Weeks, S.W. Weeks Construction
- Phil Sullivan, AMEC Environment and Infrastructure
- Chris Meunier, Arrow Construction Products

Association Executive Director Grant Feltmate and Association Office Manager Carol Ingraham continue to provide the continuity needed to guide the business interests of the association. These two individuals do not receive enough recognition for the efforts they put forth for the membership.

I encourage the members to remain engaged with the association by relaying any concerns or interests to the board to be discussed, investigated and/or addressed.

As winter quickly passes and we prepare for the upcoming construction season, I would like to wish the members a healthy and prosperous year.

1 Muir, Paddy. Great Roads: A History of the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association, 1995.

One interesting change for 2013 is that they will tender all double chip seal to the private sector. That means greater than 70 kms being tendered according to the TIR 2013 – 2014 Five-Year Plan document. The NSRBA has been supportive of chip seal as a good alternative for certain roads in N.S. since it was first announced in 2010.

Hopefully we will eventually see a significant number of kms tendered every year, which would promote the building of a substantial, competitive, private industry, chip seal sector. We would strongly advocate for tendering that has jobs of sufficient size and geographical grouping to maximize competition and value for the taxpayer.



HIGH LIGHTS

DESPITE THE NOTED CHALLENGES THAT NSRBA FACES, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT MANY POSITIVES EXIST WITH THE NSRBA.

The NSRBA remains in a firm fiscal position.

It continues to have strong Boards of Directors that actively guide the direction of the Association.

The Board has included a consistent line of excellent presidents. It is very typical for all Board members to contribute significantly to our success, but the commitment by the person in the President's seat is a very large one in time and energy. They also happen to be key individuals in the operation of whatever firm they work with/own as well.

Membership continues to grow.

Our Asphalt Laydown Technician Course is very successful, gaining CCA Gold Seal accreditation.

The AGMs continue to be very successful, with approximately 335 attendees to the Dinner and Entertainment and over 400 at the banquet.

We also had one of our strongest head tables ever for the 2013 event with the TIR Minister Maurice Smith, Stephen McNeil, Jamie Baillie and Mayor Mike Savage. The latter is of great interest as it has been many years since an HRM mayor was in attendance. We certainly appreciate the attendance of our head table and special guests.

We continue to have regular interaction with political party caucuses.

One additional plus that has been seen, vis a vis TIR, is the meaningful improvement in getting tenders out earlier for the upcoming season. This has been a point of advocacy for the NSRBA, since its inception, and good progress has been made for 2013. We do follow a two pronged approach with TIR i.e. while we oppose the internal road building activity we strive for a good working relationship on regular tendered contracts. To that end we will have something in the area of twenty scheduled meetings of a joint nature.

We continue to participate and benefit from our membership in the Atlantic Road Building Association. We are beginning to do something similar on a more national basis as well.

Along the same lines we continue to believe in and promote working closely with other appropriate industry organizations and representatives such as CANS, ACA, TANS and MANS.

Advocacy for our membership has become a growing part of what we do, whether it be with other industry groups such as CFIB, CRFA, on topics like First Contract Arbitration or making certain our input is part of Government decision making on Labour, Environmental or Natural Resource issues as examples.

We created our first formal strategic plan in 2009. As Andrew has noted in his report we are looking to replicate that process later this year as the vast majority of that plan has been completed. We look forward to focusing on further success for the NSRBA.



Hopefully we will eventually see a significant number of kms tendered every year, which would promote the building of a substantial, competitive, private industry, chip seal sector

NSRBA Charitable Events

Every year the members of the association show their support by donating significant funds to many different charitable groups, either directly within their own communities or under the NSRBA umbrella, through events such as the golf tournament and the silent auction at the AGM.

At the NSRBA's annual general meeting in January 2008, the association put on a formal evening and held a live auction with the proceeds going to the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada. The event raised over \$80,000. The donation is one of the largest that the charity has ever received from a third-party event.

Since 2008, the NSRBA AGMs auctions have continued to raise impressive sums of money for charitable donations. In 2009, \$8,000 was donated to the Truro STAR program which provides much needed support to the special needs children in our community. In 2010, the AGM charity auction raised \$15,370 for The Sackville Bedford Developmental Centre. The centre offers programs for children with additional needs. In 2011, \$14,700 was raised for the Laing House Association. The 2012 AGM raised \$24,651 which was donated to the Tearmann House. In 2013, approx \$22,000 has been raised which will be donated to the Canadian Association of Community Living.

In addition to donations made from funds raised at our AGM, the NSRBA has also supported the Turkey Club. The Turkey Club assists needy families in the Halifax Regional Municipality during the Christmas Season through the program. **Since 2007, as the result of our members' support of our annual golf event, the NSRBA has also donated \$22,800 to the Turkey Club.**



2012 NSRBA Charity Donations

The Tearmann House was the charity for the 2012 AGM silent auction. A whopping \$24,651 was raised for this great organization.

The name 'Tearmann' comes from a Gaelic word meaning 'refuge'. While members of the Tearmann Society engage in various activities in support of the victims of family violence, the most important role of Tearmann House is to be a safe place for abused women and their children.

Tearmann House offers shelter to women in physically, emotionally, and/or sexually abusive relationships; food, shelter, and basic personal needs for women and their children.

More recently, on July 12, 2012 the NSRBA held its ninth annual golf tournament at the Truro Golf Club. Each year the event attracts more than 144 players and raises funds for the Turkey Club Society.

This year's tournament raised \$4,500. The cheque was presented to Turkey Club Chairman Mel Boulitier. His sincere thanks for the donation was extended to us in December.

The NSRBA takes great pride in supporting charitable initiatives. We are able to make these donations because of the great support and generosity of our members. Thanks so much to each one of you.



NSRBA 2012 Turkey Club Donation - Thanks to all our sponsors!!

The NSRBA is a proud sponsor of the Turkey Club which is a volunteer group dedicated to raising funds so that less fortunate families are able to enjoy a Christmas Dinner and a brighter holiday season. For more information on this organization please visit www.turkeyclub.org



(LEFT TO RIGHT: Past President of the NSRBA & chief organizer of the annual golf and curling events Ron Legere, Chair of the Turkey Club Mel Boulitier and 2012 NSRBA President Donald Chisholm.)



The Tearmann House was the charity selected for the 2012 AGM silent auction donation (\$24,651).

TAPA Cat Rescue Society (\$300)
www.petfinder.com/shelters/NS32.htmlDonation

(LEFT TO RIGHT: Angela Miller and Ron Legere, NSRBA Past President.)



2012 NSRBA Events

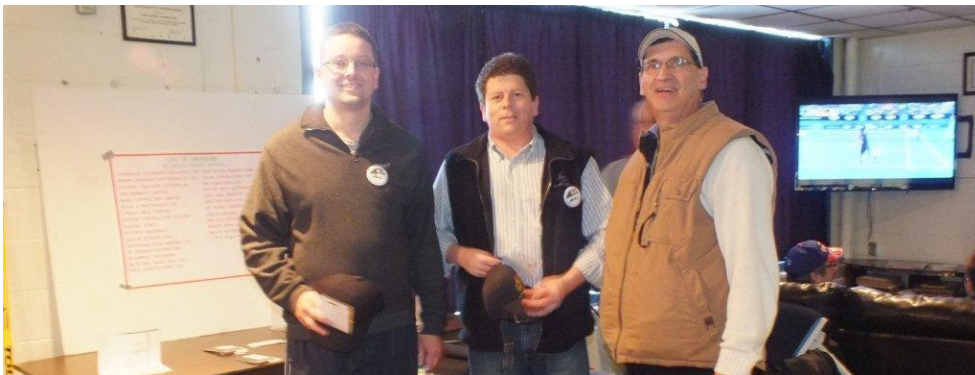
NSRBA Hockey Challenge 2013

Winner of the 9th Annual NSRBA Hockey Challenge 2013:
The Atlantic Cats



Held at CFB Halifax Curling Club

NSRBA Curling Bonspiel 2013



61st Annual NSRBA Curling Bonspiel 2013 Winners: (LEFT TO RIGHT)
Phil Sullivan, Neill Ritchie and Albert Gibson. George Coupar (absent.)

Held at the Truro Golf Club, thanks to all our sponsors for their generous donations to the

2012 NSRBA Golf Tournament



2011 Golf
Tournament
Winners:
(LEFT TO RIGHT)

**Andrew Jeans
Rylan MacDow
Matt Brunt
Steve Peters**

NSRBA WEBSITE
www.nsrba.ca



The website is proving to be a valuable tool as the association moves progressively forward.

The association decided some time ago that a new website would be an important tool to increase our public profile, send a clearer message about who the NSRBA is, and to better support our members in the efficient and accurate transfer of information.

The association is utilizing this crucial tool now to advise its members of upcoming events, allowing them the ability to pay online for events and membership registrations electronically, and the ability to view recent tender postings. The site also hosts a useful and up to date membership listing with information on all of our 163 member companies.

The site will continue to evolve and develop over time as the association determines what other functions the membership would like to see added or expanded.

Please be sure to check your own member profile to confirm that the information listed is up to date and accurate.

NSRBA also encourages you to continue to update your corporate information. Be sure to check the site out at www.NSRBA.ca

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2013 NSRBA Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons

POSITION/COMMITTEE	NAME	COMPANY	PHONE
President/Nominations	Andrew Lake	Will-Kare Paving and Contracting	w: (902) 895-4069 c: (902) 890-3205
Vice President/Nominations	Greg MacDonald	Alva Construction Ltd.	w: (902) 863-6445 c: (902) 870-2102
Immediate Past President/Nominations	Donald Chisholm	Nova Construction Co. Ltd.	w: (902) 863-4004 c: (902) 867-7470
Executive Director	Grant Feltmate	Feltmate Consulting Services Ltd.	c: (902) 499-7278
Contracts & Specifications	Mark Underhill	Dexter Construction Co. Ltd.	w: (902) 835-3381
Safety	Pam Sullivan	Basin Contracting Ltd.	w: (902) 883-2235
Industry Liaison	Bob Bernier	Eastern Fence Erectors	w: (902) 468-2455
Environment	Stephen Weeks	S.W. Weeks Construction Ltd.	w: (902) 755-3777
TANS/Rental Rates	Brian England	England Paving & Contracting Ltd.	w: (902) 863-3231
Membership	Chris Meunier	Arrow Construction Products Ltd.	w: (902) 468-1551
Newsletter & Herald Insert	Philip Sullivan	AMEC Environment & Infrastructure	w: (902) 468-2848 c: (902) 225-0724
Workforce Development	Calvin Flight	Industrial Cold Milling	w: (506) 867-0482 c: (506) 878-1694
CCA/CICC	John Felmming	Ocean Contractors Ltd.	w: (902) 435-1291 c: (902) 223-4008



BACK ROW- LEFT TO RIGHT:

Director Bob Bernier,
Director Brian England,
Director Pam Sullivan,
Associate Director Chris Meunier,
and CCA/CCIC John Flemming.

MIDDLE ROW- LEFT TO RIGHT:

Director Stephen Weeks,
President Andrew Lake,
Office Manager Carol Ingraham,
Vice President Greg MacDonald
and Associate Director
Phil Sullivan.

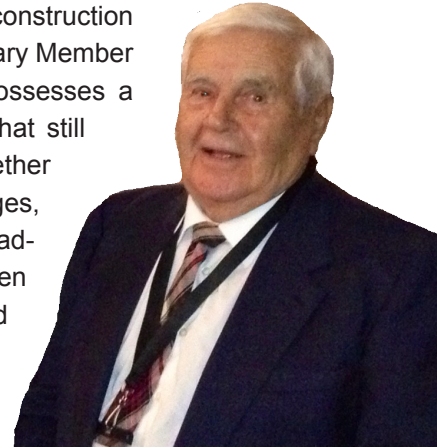
FRONT ROW- LEFT TO RIGHT:

Director Mark Underhill, Immediate
Past President Donald Chisholm,
Executive Director Grant Feltmate
and Director Calvin Flight.



Allister MacDonald

Involvement in heavy construction from his youth, Honorary Member Allister MacDonald possesses a passion for a challenge that still resonates today. Whether involved in building bridges, marine structures or roadways, he retains a keen eye for efficiencies and often questions whether there is a better way of doing things.



As Co-Owner of Alva Construction Limited with sons A.G. and Allan, Allister MacDonald successfully transferred the long-time family owned and operated construction company to its third generation. He often reminisces about his first job for his father at the age of 12 working as a wasterboy. He would carry the water in a pail with a common dipper to the men doing the work.

As a proud, lifelong road builder, Allister was successful in bidding, securing and building many of the roads and bridges throughout Nova Scotia.

He speaks fondly of his involvement with challenging projects along the Cabot Trail and Highway 104 twinning to name a few with many of the structures along the way being on the leading edge of technology and design.

Always up for a challenge, he would continuously be looking for ways to stay ahead of the competition. Whether that was through diversification of the company or just some good 'ole fashion know-how, he was always aware of what others were doing without obsessing over them.

Road building has taken Allister across Nova Scotia, where he was able to work with many capable Transportation Engineers along the way. Throughout the years, many times, Allister imparted his knowledge on many unsuspecting individuals, a feat well known to his acquaintances. His rural ties are deep within Antigonish County; however there are many communities from Yarmouth to the Cape Breton Highlands that he still visits on occasion while scoping out a job. He can stop by the local coffee shop for a cup of coffee and recognize someone he knows. He looks forward to conversations with past acquaintances, yet always has time for new associations.



HONORARY MEMBERS

John Chisholm



At St. Francis Xavier University he is known as 'doctor,' after receiving an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2011, but among local Antigonish residents and throughout the Atlantic highway construction industry, they call him John Nova.' The nickname is one of those things that Antigonishers use to identify people with the same name. Similar names are common in pockets of the province. "I think there are 11 John Chisholms and two or three John Ws, so you wouldn't have a hope in hell of finding out who you are calling," says the 66-year-old John W. (Nova) Chisholm, with a laugh. "I get calls at the house and generally they get the wrong one."

For close to a half century, John Nova has built and grown Nova Construction Company Ltd. which has become synonymous with road construction in Nova Scotia. The gravel was in his blood, one might say, at an early age. He started kicking around construction sites with his father (Chisholm Construction) when he was 12 and at 17 bought his first used bulldozer.

"In the summer I started building driveways, digging basements, lawns, whatever I could pick up and when I went back to school I worked after school and weekends," he said. His venture began to cut into his formal education and he remembers missing classes and "dodging teachers. I just kept working and of course teachers were hounding me."

John Nova continued to work his little dozer and landed a job digging the foundation for the Angus L. Macdonald Library at St. F.X. "That's what you would consider a big job at that time," he says. Today the company has much more than one little used dozer and in peak season employees over 250 people.

Nova Construction has been involved in many major projects. Hundreds of miles of highway paving and highway construction in Newfoundland, dams at Wreck Cove in Cape Breton, a major part of the highway over Cobequid Pass, and the aggregate production at Porcupine Mountain near the Canso Causeway at Auld's Cove.

Between working on major construction projects, running the day-to-day operation and generously giving back to the community through his philanthropic manner, John Nova still had time to dabble in other things. He has two surface coal mines under the umbrella of Pioneer Coal Limited, one in Point Aconi, Cape Breton and the other in Stellarton, and his love for car racing saw him build Riverside Speedway just outside Antigonish in James River.

In 1986, John Nova was president of the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association, a position his son Donald held last year. "It is an association that has a significant role to play," he says. "It deals with government on behalf of its members and works for the betterment of the whole association. What I have noticed is they (the association) don't run with an issue of one particular member. It has to benefit the whole association. It is not a lobby for an individual company."

John Nova is now chairman of the company and he stays active in its business. "Working is my hobby," he states. "So there are no immediate plans for retirement. When people ask me that, whether it is my friends or people I don't even know, I say look, if you see a rock on top of me and it is there for more than a day, you know I'm done," he says with another hearty laugh. It's a laugh his friends and people he doesn't even know will hear for a long time to come.

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info@gatewayinsurance.ca



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Project Engineer (const)
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GARY RAFUSE

Project Engineer (const)
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STEVE M^CDONALD

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JAMES WEBSTER

Northern District Area Manager - Colchester Co
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BUFFY L. WHITE

Northern District Area Manager - Cumberland Co
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Western District Area Manager - Lunenburg/Queens Co
527-5398

DON MAILLET

Western District Area Manager - Annapolis/Digby Co
825-4827

GREG NEWELL

Western District Area Manager - Shelburne/Yarmouth Co
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BASIL PITTS

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JOHN O'CONNOR
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ANNE BEDARD
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424-2306

RAYMOND BEATON
A/Director, Vehicle Compliance
424-3602

GEORGE COOPER
Director, Information Technology
424-2822

NATALIE AISTHORPE
Director, Motor Carrier
424-2821

KIMBERLY COOKE
Manager, Building Services
424-6652

BRIAN GALLIVAN
Executive Director, Policy and Planning
424-2907

ROBERT WOERL
Manager, Occupational Health and Safety
424-8284

DON SUTHERLAND
Director, Real Property Services
424-6038

NEIL WHYTE
Director, Building Services
424-2883

WARREN ZWICKER
Manager, Capital Program
Planning and Development
424-7772

TODD BROWN
Director, Public Safety and Field Communications
424-7678

BRUCE LANGILLE
Manager, Risk Management and Claims
424-2930

KEVIN MITCHELL
Director, Operation Services
424-5582

DANIELLE LEOPOLD
Director, Fleet Management
861-1911

VACANT
Executive Director, Financial Services
424-3893



For a complete members listing, please visit us at: www.nsrba.ca and click on the **Member Directory** link.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS 2012-2013

Gateway Insurance Brokers



Say it with Stitches



Lepage Equipment & Parts Ltd.
Pura Vida Financial Services
IronPlanet
East Coast Capital Inc.

Atlantic Canada One Call
McLeod Safety Services Ltd.
exp
Acklands - Grainger

NEW ORDINARY MEMBERS 2012-2013

Brycon Construction Limited